

# Town of Arlington

## FINAL REPORT

### ADA Self-Evaluation (as basis for Transition Plan)

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December 15, 2014



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## **PART A - Executive Summary**

### **Introduction**

The Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD) has prepared this ADA Self-Evaluation report on behalf of the Town of Arlington's Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission as part of the Department's and Town's on-going effort to assess the current level of accessibility in its programs, services, and activities. This ADA Self-Evaluation report is intended to be used as the basis for the Transition Plan, a living document used to monitor corrective actions.

The Recreation Department, a self-sustaining Department of the Town, prides itself for offering "safe, quality and affordable programs and facilities for citizens of all ages and abilities". IHCD can attest to the Department's commitment for inclusion and eagerness to continue improving accessibility in its facilities. In reviewing the Department's yearly reports over the past decade, it is clear that the Department, in concert with the Park and Recreation Commission, and in collaboration with Friends of Parks groups, the expertise and guidance of the Disability Commission, and other engaged residents and groups, has made important efforts to increase accessibility within many park and playground facilities. Despite these efforts, the following recurring issues were identified in many facilities:

- Gaps in pedestrian access to site arrival points;
- Gaps in pedestrian access between site access points and facility program areas;
- Gaps in integrated seating at team areas and spectator seating areas;
- Lack of access to facility amenities due to landscape borders and edging;
- Lack of accessible routes through and within program areas due to ground surface issues;
- Lack of informational and directional signage and wayfinding assistance.

This ADA Self-Evaluation report includes model policies and procedures for adoption by the Recreation Department, and a summary of architectural barriers and proposed barrier removal solutions for 32 Town-owned and Department-operated facilities such as recreational buildings, parks, fields, and playgrounds. All are designed to help move the Recreation Department towards full compliance with its obligations under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB).

All recommendations should be considered preliminary until this ADA Self-Evaluation report has been shared by the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission with the disability community before the end of the project. Consequently, when the Department's director presents findings and recommendations to the community and receives feedback, some may need adjustment. Together, the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition plan will enable the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission to engage in capital budgeting preparation for capital work to be completed within the next five to ten years to address the operational needs and obligations of the Town of Arlington.

For the sake of clarity, this ADA Self-Evaluation report is organized into three parts: 'Part A - Executive Summary' provides an 'Introduction' to this project as well as summaries of the 'Evaluation of Programs and Services' and 'Evaluation of Facilities', and 'Prioritizing Accessibility Modifications - Recommended Order of Considerations'. 'Part B - Evaluation of Non-discriminatory Policies and Practices in Programs, Communications, Services, and Activities' offers an analysis of policies and procedures administered by the Recreation Department, and a detailed survey of the Department's website information and online registration procedures. Finally, 'Part C - Evaluation of Facilities' identifies issues found as well as a remediation plan in each of the facilities surveyed.

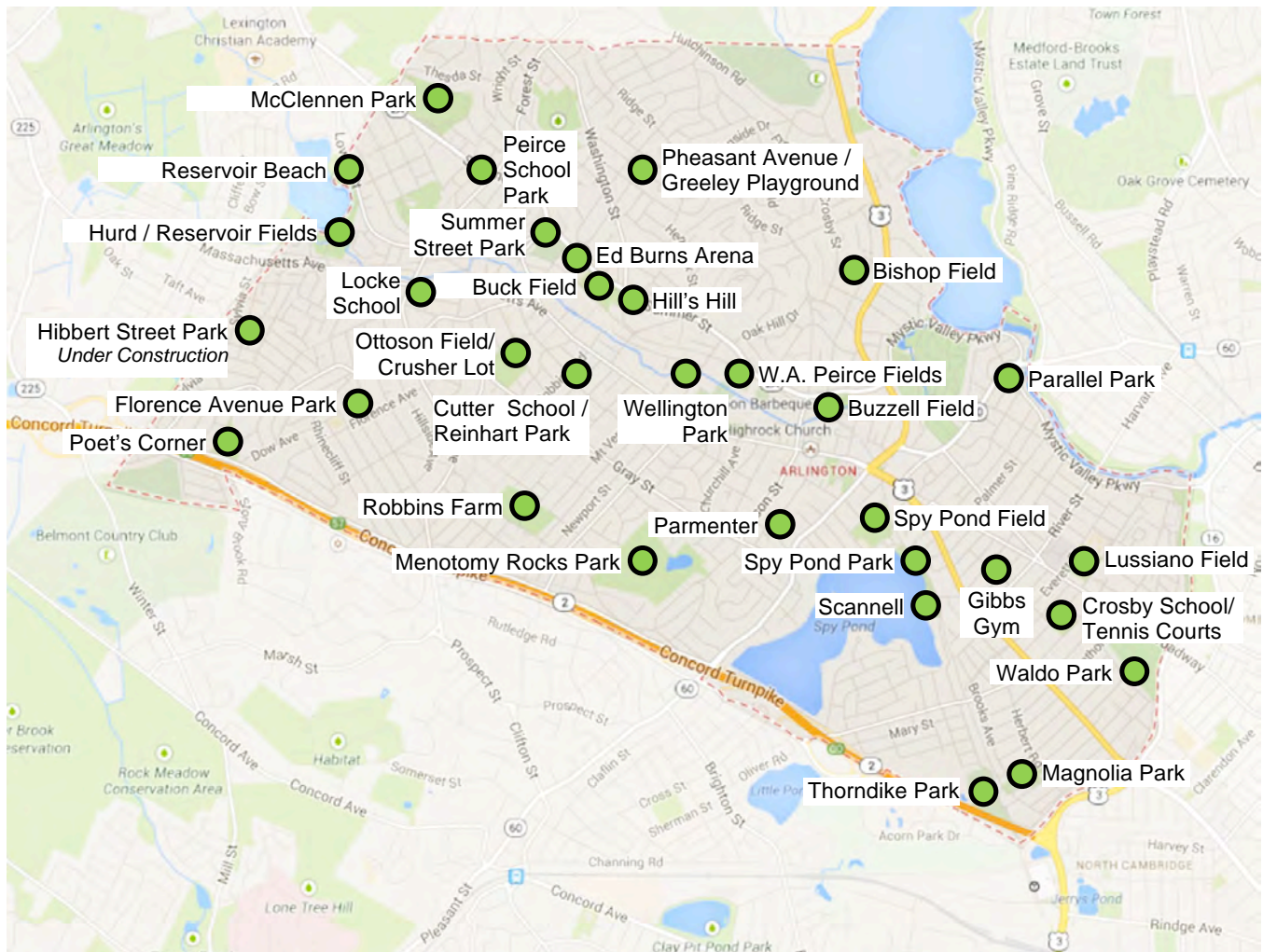


Figure 1 – Location of all 32 facilities assessed as part of this ADA Self-Evaluation report.

## **Executive Summary of the Evaluation of Programs and Services**

The Recreation Department manages many and diverse indoor and outdoor year-round, seasonal and short-term public recreational programs and services. The Department also manages and provides oversight for short-term and long-term indoor and outdoor facility rentals to non-profit and community volunteer groups and smaller family groups. In addition, the Department co-manages aspects of facility use and maintenance with other Town Departments and co-sponsors community-wide events with local organizations that are affiliated with one or more of the Town's Departments. For example, the Department co-manages certain recreation facilities that are also used by the School Department. This ADA Study did not include evaluation of School Department facilities and programs, however.

IHCD analyzed the Department's public programs and services, including those that are co-managed and provided in collaboration with other departments and organizations, against the backdrop of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires that the Town and Department ensure that no services, programs or activities are provided in a manner that excludes the participation of individuals with disabilities; or in a manner that denies the benefits of those services, programs or activities because the programs, services or activities are being provided in facilities that are inaccessible or unusable by individuals with disabilities.<sup>1</sup> For example, if a municipal sports program using a ballfield or tennis court is being operated without the provision of an accessible route to that field or court from the entrance of the facility, it cannot yet be considered to be meeting its program accessibility goals. Furthermore, the required accessibility adjustment would not alter the nature of the program, nor be considered an undue administrative and financial burden.

The Title II regulations also include what is known as the "integration mandate." This requires public entities to "administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."<sup>2</sup> The most integrated setting is one that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled persons to the fullest extent possible.<sup>3</sup> For example, it would be unacceptable to place only the wheelchair spaces, or only the wheelchair spaces and their associated companion seats, outside the seating areas defined by risers in an assembly or spectator area. When developing capital improvement projects aimed at facilitating program access by updating and improving architectural accessibility conditions, public entities are not required to remove barriers not associated with the project, even if removal is readily achievable. However, in the case of elements that were not constructed in compliance with the standards in effect at the time of construction, such barriers must be corrected at the time of next alterations; and the standards that shall be used are the current 2010 ADA Standards (or State standards, if they provide a greater level of accessibility).

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<sup>1</sup> §35.149 Discrimination prohibited.

<sup>2</sup> 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(d) (the "integration mandate")

<sup>3</sup> 28 C.F.R. Pt. 35, App. A (2010) (addressing § 35.130)

## **Recreation Department Office**

The Town of Arlington's Recreation Department Office represents the point of entry to the Department's programs, activities, and services. This office is located within the Sports Complex (which includes Ed Burns Arena, Summer Street Park / Buck Field / Hill's Hill) and provides walk-in registration and staffing Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. On Department brochures and on the website contact information, there is no information provided regarding the availability of a TTY or more current and effective communication methods for individuals with disabilities, such as videophones, captioned telephones, voice carryover and hearing carryover phones, and pagers and other computer devices that send text or IM messages as options for communication.

Many of the Department's public programs are offered through the website links to online forms, in addition to the opportunity to register at the physical Office. Under a separate contract with the Institute for Human Centered Design, the Department's website was reviewed and tested to understand how individuals with disabilities can learn about the programs and register to participate in programs that include online registration. The Department's website present several accessibility issues and will require modifications in order to ensure that people using screen readers and other assistive technology are not denied access to portions of the information. For more information, please refer to the Website Review Report, which is added as a supplement to this ADA Self-Evaluation report.

The Department Office has a number of structural exterior and interior accessibility needs, which begin with approach and entrance issues at the parking lot, sidewalks, and the crosswalks and curb ramps that are provided within the perimeter of the Sports Complex. Resolution of these accessibility issues will also benefit accessibility to the Ed Burns Arena, Summer Street Park, Buck Field, and Hill's Hill. For detailed information regarding the structural accessibility issues found at the Office, please see Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

## **Indoor Facilities**

### **Ed Burns Arena**

At the Ed Burns Arena, which is the largest indoor facility included in this ADA Self-Evaluation report, there are numerous barriers which prevent individuals with disabilities from being able to participate in an equal, independent, and integrated manner, beginning with the entrance, which includes a service counter at the inaccessible set of doors where tickets, equipment rentals, and communications with Arena staff occur. This counter is too high and is located in an area that is enclosed on three sides and provides minimal clear space for entry, use and turning space for users of wheeled mobility devices; this space overlaps with the general public's route. There is no information provided regarding how to request receivers for the Arena's assistive listening system.<sup>i</sup> The Sports Center's "General Information" sign is mounted too high for reading and the counter area is cluttered with information that is not consolidated or mounted at a consistent height.

There are barriers in the Arena's lobby and hallways which are relatively easy to solve and not costly; and there are barriers in the main public program areas that will require more complex interventions. The two greatest barriers at the rink are: there is not yet an accessible entry onto the rink; and, there is currently no integrated seating provided. Integrated spectator seating is an important civil rights and program accessibility requirement that allows individuals with disabilities to enjoy the event with family and friends.

The Arena is also a location for rental opportunities to non-municipal sports organizations, teams, and for family parties. These rental programs oblige the Recreation Department to ensure that accurate information regarding the current state of accessibility at this facility is made available to allow all renting parties to consider their needs and their obligations to their constituents and plan accordingly. Other programmatic issues at this facility involve the inaccessible locker rooms, team seating areas, and emergency egress routes.

When this facility is being used for spectator sports, fundraisers, and other large community events, effective communication needs to be ensured by offering auxiliary aids and services, upon request, for the information displayed on the scoreboard, the referee's calls, speeches, and printed materials. It is important to let the public know that the Town is committed to Effective Communication and to provide the contact information to request auxiliary aids and services. In considering the various types of auxiliary aids and services, it is worth thinking through a good location with appropriate lighting should an ASL interpreter be requested. Computer Assisted Real Time Captioning may also be requested and, depending on circumstances, can be provided to an individual by a CART interpreter sitting next to them or by projecting the CART transcription on a screen (portable or fixed).

It is necessary, in accord with the 2010 ADA Standards, to provide assistive listening systems for people who have hearing loss. Since there are approximately 1,085 spectator seats in the Arena, and the number of available receivers in the Arena must equal at least four percent of the total number of seats, at least 44 receivers need to be available upon request. Please see the facility survey in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for detailed element-by-element recommendations which will assist the Department to develop integrated accessible public skating in addition to accessible team programs at this exciting venue.

### Gibbs Gym

The Gibbs Gym is located in the gymnasium of the former Gibbs Jr. High School. The facility provides after-school public outdoor play opportunities plus a basketball and Four-Square court; and, indoor opportunities that include municipal adult programs; young people's weekly, after school, preschool, vacation day, and seasonal programming; and is also rented by other organizations providing childcare and gymnastic-type programs. The Department also offers staffed two-hour birthday party rentals and special event types of rentals of this Gymnasium, which received a new floor several years ago. Also included within this large complex known as the Gibbs Center is the Arlington Center for the Arts, which provides arts and other cultural events, coordinated with the Department, and other organizations such as the Kelleher Center, Learn to Grow, and Lesley Ellis School. Only the Gibbs Gym was included within the scope of this project by the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission.

While there is a ramped entrance available to the programs in this facility space, the route from accessible parking spaces to that entrance along Tufts Street will require reconstruction to mitigate the lack of a smooth continuous, accessibly sloped, and maintained sidewalk route to the ramped entrance. The entrance also is in disrepair with cross slope issues. It also lacks conspicuous signage to assist in wayfinding. The many inaccessible entrances around the building require signs that indicate the location of the accessible entrance. The play areas open to the public after the on-site school is closed for the day do not offer any accessible entry points or level-graded accessible routes to and between accessible play elements and transfer systems. Please see the facility survey in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for detailed element-by-element recommendations plus best practices suggestions regarding wayfinding at this facility.

## **Outdoor Facilities**

### **Fields and Courts**

In some cases, structural accessibility modifications can be completed in order to ensure accessibility of programs, services, and functions in one portion of a site without interrupting the functioning of other program areas on the same site. An example is a playground with entry seating area that may be entirely accessible, but the fields, basketball court and portable toilet room just beyond the play areas, is missing accessible route connections from the entrance. In fact, the majority of the 19 fields and 16 courts within this inventory share this and similar issues. Most can be modified to meet the Department's program accessibility obligations with the provision of an accessible route to the perimeter of the field playing areas, team seating areas, both sides of the court, plus the addition of an accessible wheelchair seating location at team seating and spectator locations. Recommendations for fields and courts are summarized in the Structural Accessibility section within Part A - Executive Summary. Each field and court location is further detailed as portions of the whole-facility survey reports in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

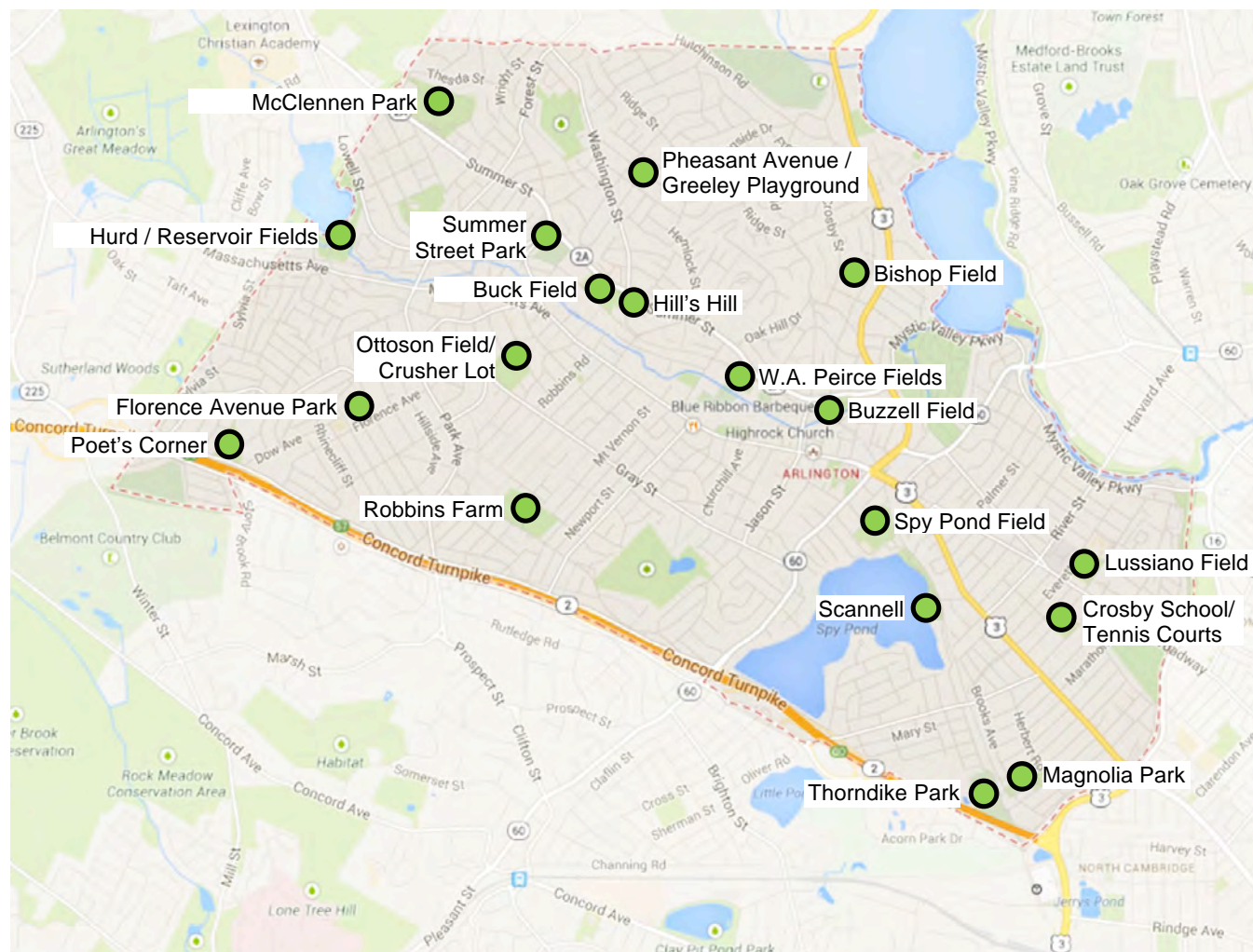


Figure 2 – Location of all 19 facilities with fields.

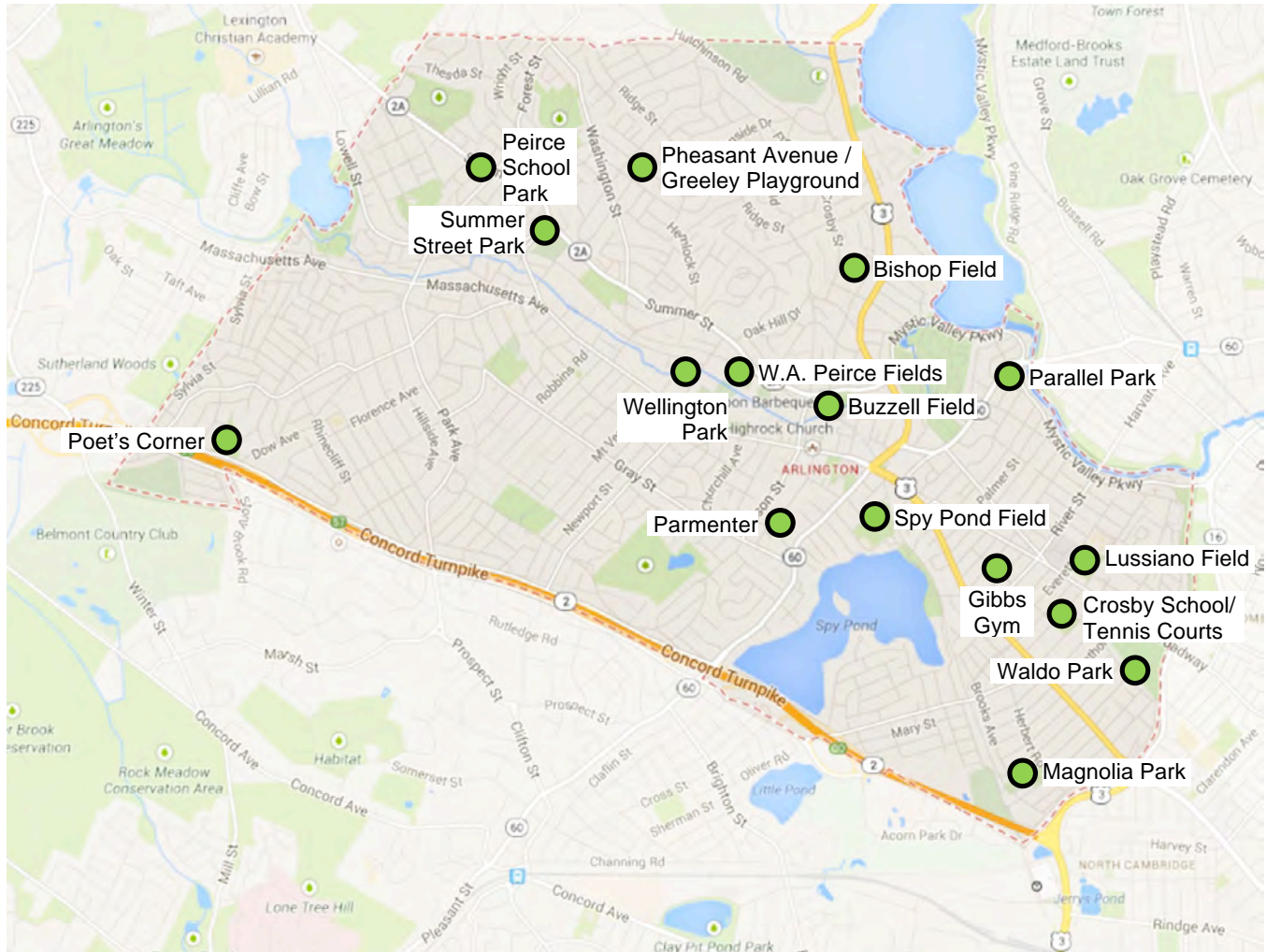


Figure 3 – Location of all 16 facilities with courts.

## Playgrounds

The survey included 25 playgrounds alongside multiple types of active, passive, and learning programs. Some of the playgrounds are part of the municipal school programs as they are used during weekdays for school-based play periods; these are also offered to the public after 3 p.m. Some of the playgrounds are located within sites that offer unique programs not duplicated elsewhere in the Town, such as a skateboard park, a shoreline path, a cooperative learning garden, a dog run, a water spray feature, a beach, and well-maintained tennis courts. Notably well-renovated playgrounds include the Locke School Playground, Florence Avenue Park, Peirce School Park, and Summer Street Park.

In certain cases, necessary modifications to make the playgrounds more accessible can be accomplished while other more complicated program accessibility needs are being planned and developed at these facilities over a longer period of time. The majority of playgrounds require similar modifications, which are relatively simple to achieve. These include linking the play areas to accessible

walkways within the interior of the facility, adding entry points over or through the play area borders, and replacing or replenishing ground surface materials to ensure that they Play Surface Standards of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) [www.ASTM.org](http://www.ASTM.org), specifically the 2004 Standard Specifications for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment are able to maintain accessible slopes (maximum of 1:16) for play areas. Recommendations for playgrounds are summarized in the Structural Accessibility section within Part A - Executive Summary; and each playground location is further detailed as a portion of the whole-facility survey reports in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

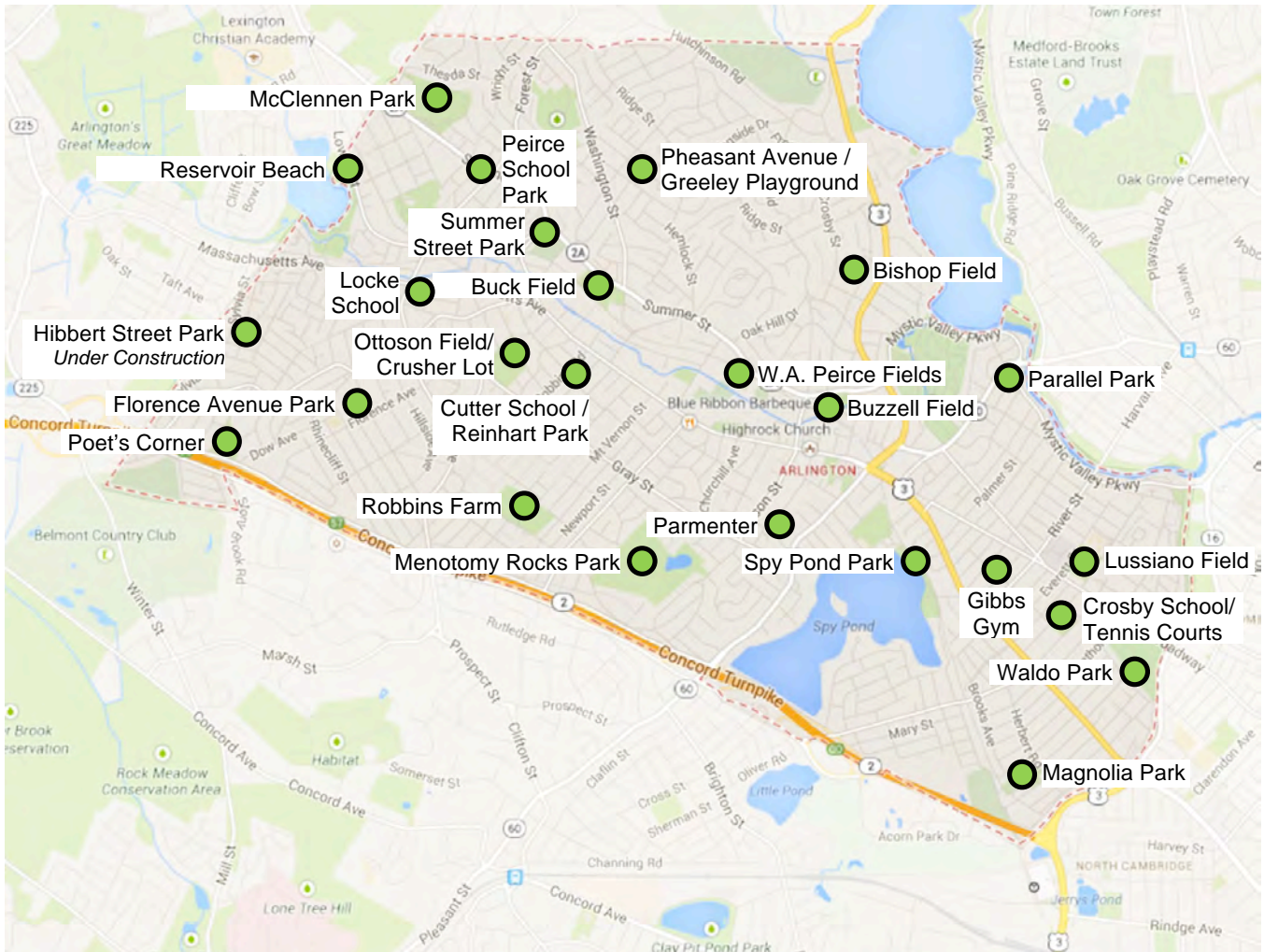


Figure 4 – Location of all 25 facilities with playgrounds.

## Water-Based Sports

The inventory includes water-based programs, such as a beach with a swimming pool and a boat ramp located at the versatile Spy Pond Park. These facilities are popular locations for seasonal and community programs and events.

The Arlington Reservoir Beach programs are, at this time, largely inaccessible due to structural accessibility barriers within program areas. Programs include seasonal beach tags for families and individuals; and certified (American Red Cross) swimming lessons. The Beach programs are site-specific and this location is also an important place for local social gatherings and neighborhood bonding. Families and small groups can rent program areas for seasonal birthday party rentals.<sup>4</sup> Families and individuals can purchase a beach tag to enjoy community gatherings, such as a Moonlight Beach Party Benefit co-sponsored by the Arlington Recreation Department and the Arlington Parks Alliance.<sup>5</sup> The Beach is also used for the Summer Exploration Club swims (ages 10 - 14).

The boat ramp, which was added after 2005, is located at the North beach area in Spy Pond Park. This asset is used for public programs offered through the Recreation Department in addition to providing facilities for the Arlington/Belmont Crew Learn to Row program (grades 8 - 10), Canoe and Kayak rentals, and occasional ferries to Elizabeth Island as part of a summer celebration called Fun Day.

Boating programs are currently inaccessible, because the new boat ramp lacks a clear, smooth level accessible route and a smooth clear pontoon or landing stage to accommodate adaptive rowing and accessible launch/ dismount capabilities. This popular array of programs and activities should be available on an equal basis to the public at large for individuals with disabilities. Given the physical issues of using the boat and pontoon, there may be no alternative (e.g., modification of policies and procedures) but to renovate of the physical facility to provide an equal opportunity for people with disabilities. This boat ramp and at least one viewing location can be improved for safer use during such activities. Please see the Resources Appendix for information on technical scoping and available assistance on operational issues at boating facilities and fishing piers.<sup>6</sup>

At this time, the Department has already been gathering feedback to inform the scoping of capital improvements at Reservoir Beach. IHCD would like to commend the inclusion of an accessible route from the parking facility along Lowell to the beach; other improvements are also included that will improve the quality of structural accessibility conditions at beach programs. Part B uses the Reservoir Beach as a case study for recommendations on how to use site management procedures to prevent non-complying alterations.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/birthdays/resbirthdays](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/birthdays/resbirthdays)

<sup>5</sup> "The Arlington Parks Alliance is made up of representatives from the community and local Friends groups that work collaboratively to assist the Park and Recreation Commission's efforts to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the 27 parks and playgrounds in Arlington. *For more information about the Arlington Parks Alliance (APA), contact [www.arlingtonparks.org](http://www.arlingtonparks.org).*"

[http://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29060](http://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29060)

<sup>6</sup> The U.S. Access Board has a number of online guides available, see: <http://www.access-board.gov/attachments/article/589/boating.pdf> AND

<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/NERR/present/accessibility/RecreationalBoatingFacilitiesFishingPiersPlatforms.pdf>

Where public information is disseminated about this program, an accurate description of the accessibility conditions at these programs should be included in public information as a standard operating procedure.

## Walking Trails

Within this inventory, at least nine facilities include walking trails that were re-graded and paved within the past decade, resulting in excellent programmatic additions to the Department's unique offerings. These include access to natural beauty and quiet places off the beaten path and close to water's edge at ponds, brooks, marshy and woody areas, large open grassy fields and beaches. Where there is no accessible pathway off the interior walkways leading to these programs, we find picnic tables, gardens, benches, and play areas out of accessible reach, because ground surfaces are grassy rather than smooth, or contain surface materials which do not maintain stable grades and consistent firm, level and slip-free surfaces. Specific to walking surfaces, the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Services Office of Civil Rights finds pea gravel and other small particle surfaces to not meet the requirements for firm, stable and slip-resistant surfaces.<sup>7</sup>

As the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission continue to manage Capital Improvement projects in collaboration with other Commissions and engaged resident stakeholders, some of these beautiful and large parks will continue to be developed with secondary and additional paths. The Department is advised to become familiar with the Federal standards for Outdoor Developed Areas, which address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes and other components of outdoor developed areas. While these requirements are not yet requirements for Title II entities, there is continuing movement in that direction. More information regarding The U.S. Access Board standards for Outdoor Developed Areas is included in Part D – Appendices.<sup>8</sup> There are also excellent guidance resources on Recreational Trail Program development from the Federal Highway and Department of Transportation's accessibility pages.<sup>9</sup> Please see further discussion on outdoor facilities (passive recreational facilities, walking trails) in Part A - Executive Summary, findings by program type in Part B, and the element-by-element surveys and recommendations in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

Where public information is disseminated about this program, a best practice recommendation is to include links to information rating trail difficulties, and providing trail measurements and accessibility conditions, where such information has been compiled as part of the site management, development of shared-use paths, and existing conditions evaluations completed during the design phase of trail and shared-use path improvements. The Department is encouraged to evaluate existing conditions as a standard operating procedure during the planning and scoping phase of Capital Project management practices.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See recent U.S. DOI Civil Rights Directive: Policy for Implementing a Public Civil Rights Program, June 25, 2009. This is online at: <http://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/directives/upload/PCR-CR-2009-01.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/accessibility\\_guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/accessibility_guidance/)

<sup>10</sup> This practice can also inform the Department's collaboration with the State when reviewing and improving the Town's asset management of Arlington's Minuteman Trail links. For resources please see <https://www.imba.com/resources/maps/trail-difficulty-ratings>

## Community Gardens

There are two community gardens which are available through application and lottery procedures. The Community Garden at Magnolia is currently physically inaccessible because it is approached by a narrow walkway with uneven and unpaved surface conditions, the gate is too narrow an entrance, and there are no accessible routes to circulate through any rows or leading to materials and supplies inside the fence.

The Cooperative Learning Garden at Robbins Farm does not connect with any firm, level walkway, has a steep incline to the gated entrance, and contains no routes within for individuals with a variety of disabilities to independently participate.

At Spy Pond Park, a rain garden was provided by the members of a garden club; and there is also a rain garden at Hurd Field. These elements were not in display at the time of the survey. There is also the Wildlife habitat garden area between the Reservoir Trail and the back entry to Hurd Field. Although the intent was to make the Habitat garden accessible, the effort has not yet succeeded. This excellent effort involved a Town Department working with local stakeholders and resulted in two re-graded areas – the Meadow and the Shade Gardens. As stakeholders continue developing this community and environmental educational asset, there should be considerations for bringing the signage closer to a level graded area; and planning for at least one least steep pathway, perhaps with a natural materials fence or half-wall to enable a larger involvement of residents with disabilities who are gardeners and may be gifted and interested in environmental stewardship of the natural assets around the Arlington Reservoir.

The Learning Garden, Wildlife Habitat and Community Garden programs hold the potential to exploit the wind and water along with the land as they continue to be designed and developed. Where public information is disseminated about this program, an accurate description of the accessibility conditions at these programs should be included in public information as a standard operating procedure.

## Off-Leash Dog Recreation Programs

In the Spring of 2010, the Town residents approved a by-law to allow off-leash dog walking at certain parks. Thirteen facilities in the survey have off leash walking hours in the early morning. Since then, an Off-Leash Recreation Area (OLRA) was developed adjacent to Thorndike Field.

Program accessibility issues involve information, communications and physical access. Signage along paved walkways is not uniformly at an accessible height and not consistently approachable along an accessible route. Communications issues also involve the need to provide information for how to request OLRA and Off-Leash Dog Walking hours in alternate formats. In conversations with the Department Director and Park and Recreation Commission members, it is clear that consideration for how to better enable individuals using Service Dogs to take advantage of this excellent recreational opportunity is an emerging focus issue. Other recommendations include providing a smooth ground surface for the interior walkway in the Thorndike OLRA; this will solve issues regarding ease of

maneuvering these paths, and help eliminate tripping and tumbling risks associated with small particle ground surface materials. The Thorndike OLRA requires accessible walking surfaces and other components of accessible routes to be provided as a crucial part of the mitigation plan for these programs; these physical condition standards apply to the routes from public transit, nearby streets and sidewalks, and municipal parking facilities that support the implementation of these public programs. In addition, details such as the provision of clear, level space and seating locations for individuals using wheeled mobility devices, canes, etc. will ensure that integrated seating amenities and social opportunities are provided around park trees and at bench locations.

## Parking Facilities

The survey also included off-street parking facilities supporting the programs and functions at 16 facilities. Most parking facilities provide an adequate number of accessible parking spaces and access aisles (stripped areas alongside accessible parking spaces) with compliant widths and lengths; however, slopes of parking space access aisles and adjoining crosswalk areas are excessive. Accessible route connections between accessible parking spaces and the points of entry to the facility they serve have excessive cross and run slopes, inaccessible curb ramps and sidewalks, uneven ground surface issues; and, in some cases were missing. Recommendations for parking facilities by program type are grouped in Part A - Executive Summary of Facilities, Structural Accessibility section. ; Detailed facility survey reports along with overall facility recommendations for these sites are provided in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

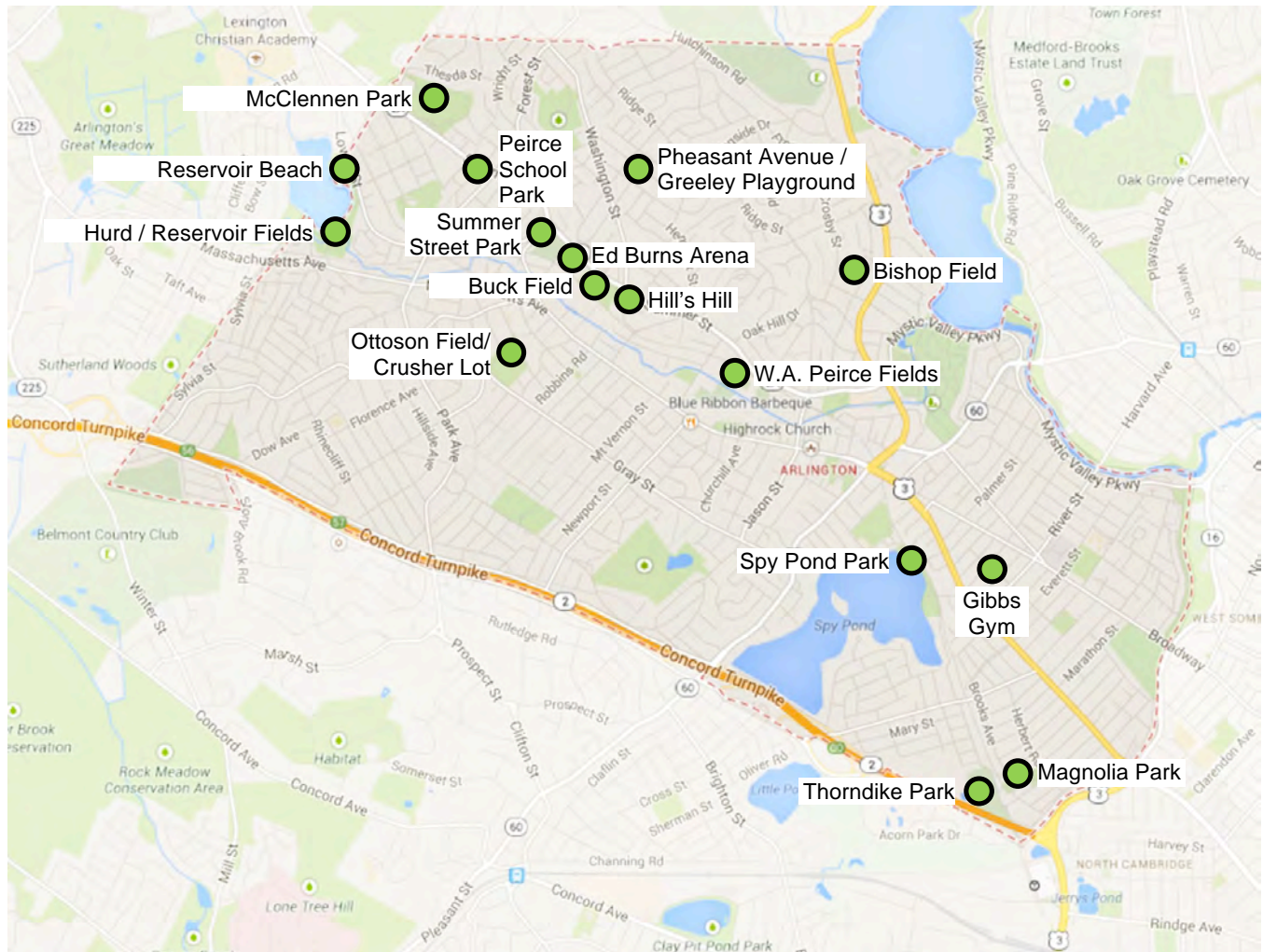


Figure 5 – Location of all 16 facilities with parking.

### Shared-use trails

There are nine facilities connected to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway (commonly known as the bike path) and shared-use trail linkages. While these State-managed facilities were not within the scope of this ADA Self-Evaluation report, the Recreation Department is advised to become familiar with the multimodal transportation guidance offered in relation to pedestrian and bicycle facilities from U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), as this will assist the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission in future collaborative planning with regards to the further development of linkages between recreation and open space facilities and the bikeways and trails.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\\_pedestrian/overview/policy\\_accom.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/policy_accom.cfm)

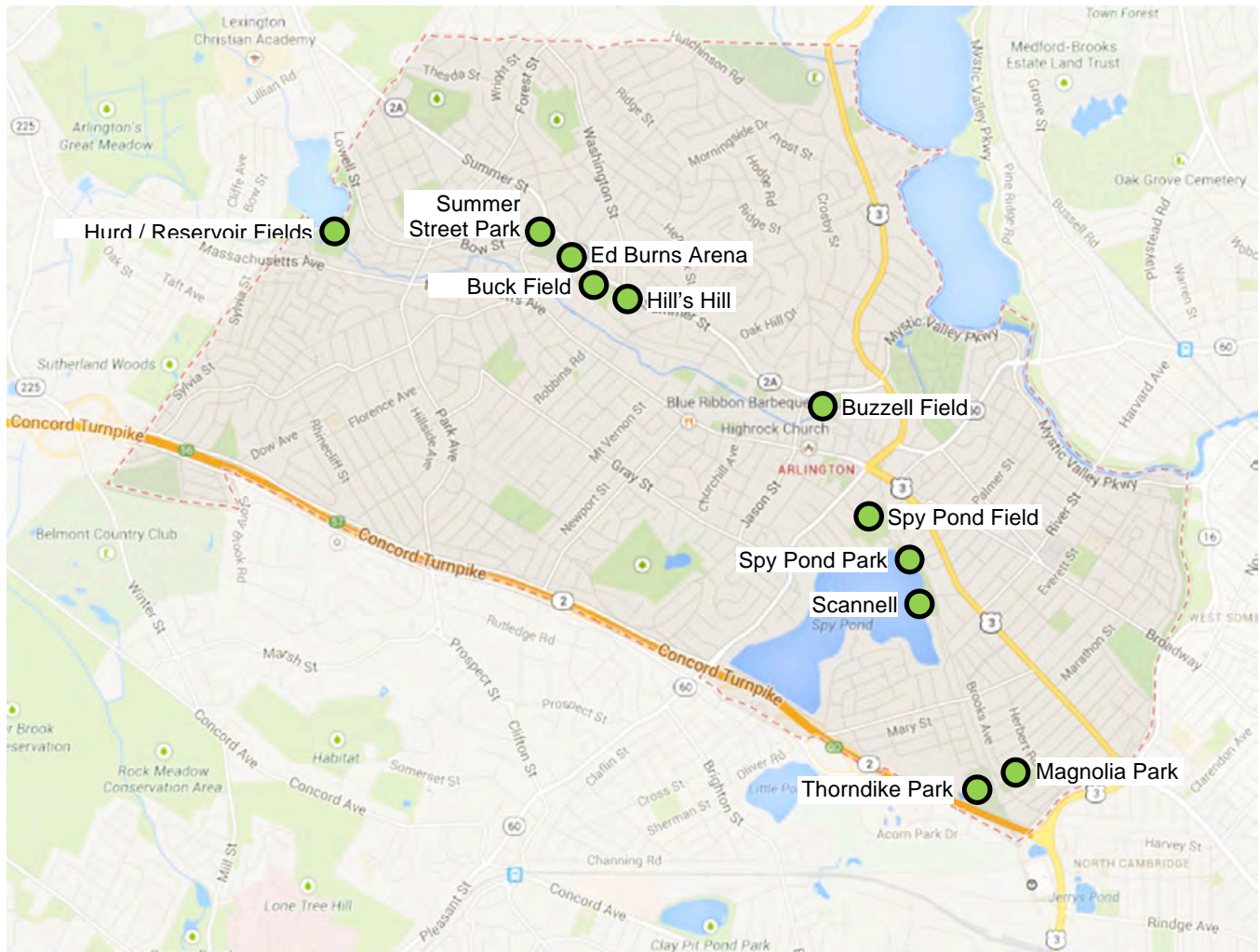


Figure 6 – Location of all nine facilities along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway.

## **Public Rights of Ways**

Finally and importantly, are the site arrival point requirements that call for at least one *accessible* route to be provided within the *site* from *accessible* parking spaces and *accessible* passenger loading zones (where provided); public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the *accessible* building or facility entrance they serve.

Approximately 18 sites had recent sidewalk and curb ramp construction at the adjacent perimeter of the site; many with partial reconstruction of some sidewalk panels plus curb ramps. Common issues that were identified during surveys included: curb ramps not being aligned with the crosswalks; transitions from ramps to streets and sidewalks were often not flush or free of level changes; curb ramp landings have excessive cross and running slopes; sidewalk panels adjacent to curb ramps have excessive cross slopes; and, sidewalks have excessive cross and running slopes.

While the street reconstruction efforts are not directly under the Recreation Department's management and oversight, the Department and Commission should engage in providing input where such streetscape construction affects the accessible use of Parks and Recreation facilities. Accessibility improvements of public rights-of-way (i.e., crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalks, etc.) along the site perimeter are important and necessary accessibility issues for the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission to consider when planning renovations to achieve its goals of inclusive and compliant programming. In addition, where facility construction, renovations, and alterations have occurred since 1992, the adjoining accessible routes from parking facilities, streets, sidewalks, and public transit routes are required to be evaluated and mitigated as needed, during the planning phase of the Town's facility Capital Improvement Projects. In addition to these accessible route requirements, the ADA mandates that curb ramps must be installed where needed to ensure pedestrian access to programs in existing facilities as well as for facilities, which have undergone construction and alterations since 1992. The Town has an ongoing Curb ramp construction program; the Department can provide additional recommendations where additional curb ramps are needed to provide access to Park and Recreation facility site arrival points. These issues impact residents with and without disabilities because of the safety implications of not being able to use sidewalks with accessible curb ramps.

Please see Legal Overview in Part A - Executive Summary regarding the recent Joint Guidance issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) clarifying the obligations of Title II entities to provide curb ramps whenever pedestrian intersections (including crosswalks) are constructed and altered. In addition, the Recreation Department is advised to become familiar with the U.S. Access Board's Public Rights of Ways Accessibility Guidelines, which have undergone extensive public comment and other regulatory processes and will soon be issued, with any necessary updates and revisions, as requirements. Federal and State streetscape project development and design guideline resources are included in Part D – Appendices. For detailed survey findings on public rights of ways that are adjacent to, and impact accessibility at, the department's facilities, please see issues and recommendations for crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalks, parking facilities and access to public transit routes at Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

## **Executive Summary of the Evaluation of Facilities**

### **Accessibility Survey Methodology**

As part of the Recreation Department's and Park and Recreation Commission's ADA Self-Evaluation report, the analysis of existing conditions at Department-operated facilities is based on observations performed by IHCD staff during site visits between January and June of 2014. The format of the inspections roughly parallels the chronological experience of a typical visit to the facilities, beginning with the approach and entry to the site from public transit stops and parking and proceeding inward to the various features provided within the facility. Following is a list of elements checked for accessibility compliance:

Sidewalks within the accessible route between public transit and/or parking and site access points were checked for surface regularity, material, running and cross slopes, and width. Sidewalk widths were measured at approximately regular intervals along the length of the path, at driveways, and at obstructions within the path.

Curb ramps were checked for presence of a sloped surface, level landing, tactile warning, and flares. These were checked for surface regularity and planarity, material, running and cross slopes, and width. When provided, tactile warnings were checked for width.

Parking facilities (off-street parking only) were checked for adequate identification signage, number of accessible parking spaces (including van-designated spaces), slope of ground surfaces, stripping alongside parking spaces, and connectivity to an accessible route to the site access point.

Points of entry to a facility were checked for surface regularity, presence of gates, and connectivity to an accessible route.

Ramps were checked for surface regularity, running and cross slopes, edge protection, level landings, and width between handrails. Handrails were measured for height, cross section, and presence of extensions at top and bottom of ramps.

Stairways were checked for surface regularity, step nosing, and handrails. Handrails were measured for height, cross section, and presence of extensions at top and bottom of ramps.

Play areas were checked for appropriate surface features, material, running and cross slopes, number and type of playground equipment, and connectivity to an accessible route.

Sport areas, including spectator sports in courts, fields, and rinks, beaches, and boating, were checked for spectator and team seating, practice areas, and connectivity to an accessible route.

Other elements, such as tables and seating, counters, bulletin boards, were also checked for number and type, height, width and depth, and connectivity to an accessible route.

Slope measurements were taken utilizing a 24-inch digital laser level, calibrated each morning. Distance measurements were taken using a 25' steel tape measure. All photos included in the report were captured digitally with iPads using IHCD's proprietary survey tool.

The inspection of facilities utilized the architectural accessibility requirements that were in effect for existing facilities and altered facilities according to the requirements set forth as the 1991 ADA Standards for all but two facilities – Florence Park and Summer Street Park. These two facilities underwent major renovations after the 2010 ADA Standards became the unified standard (March 15, 2012); these facilities were therefore surveyed according to the specifications of the 2010 ADA Standards.

In addition to the inspection of facilities, several other methods were used to comprehensively review the level of accessibility compliance regarding the programs, services and activities offered by the Recreation Department, including:

- Review of relevant policies, procedures, and other documents;
- Review of information posted on the Department's website;
- Interview with selected staff;
- Observation of facility users;
- Review of the previous efforts by the Department.

## **Program Accessibility**

The overarching goal of program accessibility of the Title II is to provide equal opportunities to the greatest number of individuals in the most integrated setting possible. In order to facilitate this objective, the ADA lays out general prohibitions against discrimination;<sup>12</sup> and further states that Individuals with disabilities cannot be excluded from or denied participation in State and local government programs, services, or activities because a facility is inaccessible or unusable.<sup>13</sup> This means that all programs, services, and activities, *when viewed in their entirety*, must be accessible to individuals with disabilities unless doing so results in a *fundamental alteration* in the nature of the program or in an undue financial and administrative burden. This requirement is known as "program accessibility."

The general prohibitions against discrimination apply to operational factors, including policies, procedures and practices that are consequential to the ways in which individuals with disabilities are enabled to access programs. Please see Part B - Evaluation of Non-discriminatory Policies and

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<sup>12</sup> § 35.130 General prohibitions against discrimination. "(a) No qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity."

<sup>13</sup> §35.149 Discrimination prohibited. Except as otherwise provided in §35.150, no qualified individual with a disability shall, because a public entity's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.

Practices in Programs, Services, and Activities for an analysis and recommendations regarding maintenance, management and planning issues where they may impact programmatic accessibility.

Both Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and ADA Title II for State & Local Governments established a primary responsibility for programmatic access. If program accessibility cannot be accomplished without structural renovation, it must be prioritized. Of course new construction and alternation for ADA Title II is equal to the stipulations of accessible facilities for private entities.

The 2010 Standards for Accessible design are the current architectural accessibility standards for built-in elements. "Built-in elements" can refer to large-area components, such as sidewalks, as well as smaller details. Thus, accessible route standards are fundamental for the construction and alteration of walking surfaces to all public programs, and include access to facilities, program areas and elements such as signage and other elements and amenities necessary for the functioning of the programs. Smaller elements, such as ground and elevated play components, anchored park furniture, wall and pedestal drinking fountains, and spectator seating (including grandstands, bleachers, lawn seating, etc.) are fundamental to program inclusion and use. Design and build standards for such functional elements describe location, dimensions, materials and proportions that facilitate their use by the greatest number of individuals.

Where prior capital improvement projects may have been completed without meeting the requirements of the standards followed at that time (e.g., ADAAG), corrective measures are required to meet ADA 2010 Standards. Please see Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for detailed structural accessibility issues and recommendations for each facility.

The Department also manages the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission. The Department has a proven record of successfully managing Capital Improvement projects that have produced consequential programmatic accessibility enhancements within certain facilities. A review of the Department's capital improvement projects within this last decade show that the Town and Department have invested in significant structural accessibility improvements, resulting in a sustainable increase in the amount and types of inclusive programming provided by the Department.

Examples are:

- The level-graded trail and accessible viewing shelf around Hill's Pond at Menotomy Rocks Park provides access to contemplative open space;
- The accessible composite play structure with accessible elevated play components, plus the accessible hardtop picnic table at Locke School Playground has resulted in a distinctively accessible program stimulating free play opportunities;
- The choice of unitary (poured-rubber) surfacing for the ground surfaces at the McClennen Park, Summer Street Park, Peirce School Park, and Florence Avenue Park contribute to play area programs that contain particularly distinctive play experiences and require minimal maintenance between inclement weather days and during seasonal transitions;
- The accessible integrative spectator bleachers installed at the W.A. Peirce Fields football and track field ensures that these unique Town programs are offered in a manner that allows.

Integrated seating. It is important that spectator programs are offered in a manner that does not prohibit friends and family from experiencing such exciting events together.

There are also a number of Capital Improvement Projects completed since the ADA Architectural Standards became effective (January 26, 1992) that fell short in complying with the architectural accessibility standards that were in effect at the time of design, construction and alterations. These include:

- The segregated three-person wheelchair seating platform at the Ed Burns Arena;
- Lack of accessible connection between play areas and table area at Waldo Park;
- Lack of accessible route to and within the accessible playground between Buck Field and Hill's Hill;
- The Boat Ramp at Spy Pond Park that lacks any accessible route and use features;
- The border and edging barriers found at so many recessed play areas and bench and table areas in recently renovated facilities;
- The lack of accessible routes to, and barriers at, community and learning gardens which are application-based, fee-based, and won by lottery;
- And the lack of accessible forward or parallel approach at amenities such as recycling receptacles and newly installed signage regarding important environmental initiatives that have been shaped by thoughtful volunteers and others involved with these programs.

Despite the Town's capital investment in these projects, each of the above examples resulted in program that remains discriminatory.

Solutions to program accessibility issues can include structural modifications, such as alteration of existing facilities according to the accessibility standards which enable program access; and/or can involve nonstructural methods such as redesign of equipment and provision of services at alternate accessible sites. *When choosing a method of providing program access, a public entity must give priority to the one that results in the most integrated setting appropriate to encourage interaction among all users, including individuals with disabilities.*<sup>14</sup>

Where non-complying elements are found, they are detailed as part of each facility's structural accessibility recommendations provided in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities. When facility renovation is the only option to create program access, the non-compliant issues must be corrected to 2010 ADA Standards.

Structural accessibility solutions are recommended for a large portion of program accessibility barriers found during the ADA Self Evaluation survey, because the majority of programs, when viewed in their entirety, are either unique programs fully dependent upon site conditions; or, the benefits and opportunities derived from these programs are uniquely sourced through the distinctive combination of conditions, resources, environmental characteristics, and proximity to nearby facility supports (such as

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<sup>14</sup> Statutory authority for this integrative principle is: ADA II-5.2000 Methods for providing program accessibility. *Regulatory references:* 28 CFR 35.149-35.150.

parking facilities and other transportation options) specific to the current program locations. A listing of unique programs and recommendations on how to prioritize accessibility modifications are offered under Prioritizing Accessibility Modifications in Part A - Evaluation of Facilities.

## **Structural Accessibility**

The Town of Arlington and Recreation Department have developed these 32 facilities to serve a multitude of purposes, programs, and functions. Many facilities include two types of fields, at least one court, a playground, social seating areas; plus paved walkways to approach and circulate within less developed areas of the facility and enjoy the natural beauty of these open spaces.

With the increasingly active participation and achievements of people with disabilities in sports and other recreational programs, accessibility standards are evolving to keep pace with the necessity to provide accessible facilities and opportunities in a large variety of indoor and outdoor sports, including track, field, courts and water-based activities. Similarly, children and parents with disabilities should not be denied the opportunities to reap equal health and social benefits at neighborhood and school-based playgrounds, and spectator sports venues.

In evaluating the structural accessibility of the 32 Department-operated facilities included within the RFP,<sup>15</sup> IHCD analyzed the following questions relevant to accessibility standards:

- a) Were the alterations made since the 1991 ADA Standards became effective constructed in compliance with the architectural access requirements in effect at the time?

If the answer is no, these issues are named, element-by-element, within the individual facility survey reports; and the necessary modifications are included as recommendations in this report – see Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

In assisting the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Department to determine which recommendations are crucial; and which may be placed on a multi-year plan beyond the ADA Transition Plan being developed out of the findings from this ADA Self-Evaluation Report, IHCD also analyzed:

- b) Are there other feasible methods or ways to make these programs readily accessible for, and usable by, individuals with disabilities at this time?

The public entity may pursue alternatives to structural changes in order to achieve program accessibility. Nonstructural methods include acquisition or redesign of equipment, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, and provision of services at alternate accessible sites. When choosing a method of

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<sup>15</sup> There were Fields, Courts and Playgrounds that were not included in the RFP but are listed on the Town's online Parks, Fields and Facilities listing at [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/parks](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/parks) such as: the Great Meadows with walking trails, Hardy School with playground and basketball court, and Whittemore-Robbins House with playground and small field.

providing program access, a public entity must give priority to the one that results in the most integrated setting appropriate to encourage interaction among all users, including individuals with disabilities.<sup>16</sup> Although this report does not include such a recommendation, the Town may also consider providing separate programs where appropriate<sup>17</sup> to provide equal opportunities – as long as individuals with disabilities are also entitled to participate in regular programs.<sup>18</sup>

As mentioned in the Introduction, there is a pattern of six structural accessibility issues that apply to nearly every facility surveyed:

- Gaps in pedestrian access to site arrival points;
- Gaps in pedestrian access between site access points and facility program areas;
- Gaps in integrated seating at team areas and spectator seating areas;
- Lack of access to facility amenities due to landscape borders and edging;
- Lack of accessible routes within sites and within program areas due to ground surface issues;
- Lack of informational and directional signage and wayfinding assistance.

Please see the Executive Section of the Evaluation of Facilities by Program Type for issues and recommendations grouped by facility type; and Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for detailed specific facility issues and recommendations.

## **Summary of Structural Issues and Recommendations for Certain Program Types**

Due to the multiple types of programs, services, and activities offered at these versatile facilities, it may be helpful to summarize similar accessibility issues found at certain types of programs. The following types of programs are summarized below, with findings and recommendations. For detailed information about the facilities mentioned below, please refer to findings and recommendations in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

### **Fields and Courts**

The lack of level-graded paths to fields, courts, team seating and spectator seating areas are barriers to participation and, in most cases, can be readily modified. In addition, at all program seating areas, including team seating for home and away teams, grandstands, bleachers and fixed lawn seating, there needs to be provision of clear ground space to accommodate and include integrated seating spaces for

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<sup>16</sup> as discussed in the ADA Title II Technical Assistance manual published by the Department of Justice,

<sup>17</sup> For more information, please refer to ADA II-3.4000 Separate benefit/integrated setting; II-3.4100 Separate programs; II-3.4200 Relationship to "program accessibility" requirement.

<sup>18</sup> Qualified individuals with disabilities are entitled to participate in regular programs, even if the public entity could reasonably believe that they cannot benefit from the regular program. For more information, please refer to ADA II-3.4300 Right to participate in the regular program.

individuals using wheeled mobility devices. All accessible paths and integrated clear ground spaces should adjoin at least one accessible route that connects with facility accessible entrance and all other program areas within and associated with site programs.

Findings:

The following outdoor courts are accessible standing alone; however, when practical access to the program is considered, these programs are not accessible due to lack of accessible route to site entrance from site arrival points, including adjacent sidewalks:

- Tennis Courts at Crosby School;
- Tennis courts at Wellington Park;
- Basketball courts at W.A. Peirce Fields.

The following field / court requires major capital renovations to achieve program accessibility:

- Spy Pond Field / Tennis Courts (Hornblower Field).

The following fields require some structural modifications without excessive cost or burden to ensure program accessibility:

- Bishop Field: multi-purpose field, baseball field;
- Buck Field: baseball field with warning strip, bleachers;
- Buzzell Field: two youth baseball/softball fields, one football field;
- Crosby School / Tennis Courts: multi-purpose field;
- Florence Avenue Park: youth baseball/softball field, multi-purpose/lacrosse field;
- Hill's Hill: multi-purpose field;
- Hurd/Reservoir: two youth baseball/softball fields, multi-purpose field;
- Lussiano Field: baseball field, youth baseball/softball field, multi-purpose field;
- Magnolia Park: multi-purpose /lacrosse field;
- McClennen Park: two multi-purpose fields, youth baseball/softball field with warning strip, new backstop;
- Ottoson Field / Crusher Lot: multi-purpose field, youth baseball/softball field;
- Poet's Corner: youth baseball/softball field, batting cages;
- Robbins Farm: baseball field, multi-purpose field;
- Summer Street Park: field hockey, softball/baseball field with bleachers;
- Scannell: youth baseball/softball field with bleachers;
- Spy Pond Field & Tennis Courts: Hornblower Field, Play Fair grandstand, plus multi-purpose /lacrosse open field, clubhouse;
- Thorndike Park: multiple multi-purpose fields, public seating along field fence;
- W.A. Peirce Fields: football-size fields not connected to track, baseball field, youth baseball/softball field, practice field.

The following courts – basketball (full and half courts), four-square and hopscotch, where applicable – require some structural modifications without excessive cost or burden to ensure program accessibility:

- Bishop Field;
- Buzzell Field;
- Crosby School/Tennis Courts;
- Florence Avenue Park;
- Lussiano Field;
- Magnolia Park;
- Parallel Park;
- Parmenter;
- Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground;
- Peirce School Park;
- Poet's Corner;
- Summer Street Park;
- Waldo Park.

The following tennis courts require structural modifications to ensure program accessibility:

- Spy Pond Field & Tennis Courts.

Recommendations:

- 1) Fields: Install an accessible route at least 36" in width, using firm and slip-resistant ground materials, to provide a level, at-grade connection to the perimeter of all field playing areas, to all team seating areas provided, to any team meeting and equipment areas and elements that are provided as part of the program, and to all spectator areas that are provided, including grandstands, all bleachers and fixed lawn seating. Project completion objectives include:

Each of these installed secondary or added accessible routes will connect with facility at-grade entrances and to all facility program areas, elements and amenities.

- 2) Courts: Install an accessible route at least 36" in width, using firm and slip-resistant ground materials, to provide a level, at-grade connection to both sides of courts. Project completion objectives include:

Each of these installed secondary or added accessible routes will connect with facility at-grade entrances and to all facility program areas, elements and amenities.

- 3) Spectator Areas: Install an accessible route at least 36" in width, using firm and slip resistant ground materials, to provide a level, at-grade connection to all accessible seats and integrated seating spaces within footprint of seating area. Project completion objectives include:

Each of these installed secondary or added accessible routes will connect with facility at-grade entrances and to all facility program areas, elements and amenities.

- 4) Team Seating Areas, general: If not already provided, install a firm, level, slip-resistant clear ground space with at minimum, 3' of width by 4' of length, shoulder to shoulder at least one end of team benches at all field dugouts and team meeting locations, and at all court waiting benches. These clear integrated seating locations should adjoin a route at least 48" in width within fenced dugout areas.
- 5) Enclosed (fenced) Team dugout areas: Ensure that there is a minimum 48" path within fenced dugout areas. This path should not overlap with bench placements but be in front of, or behind, team benches. Project completion objectives include this additional evaluation and modification where necessary:
  - a) Where front or back dugout area openings are not adjoining a level, firm and slip-resistant field area: install a level, firm and slip-resistant unobstructed clear turning space with at least a 60-inch diameter to ensure that exits are unobstructed for individuals using wheeled mobility devices to come and go in an unrestricted manner;
  - b) Each of these dugout entry/exit points will connect with at least one facility accessible route that is connected to facility accessible entrance.

The above five recommendations may be applicable to all fields that are part of the Field Permit Program and to all fields and courts within facility sites that are marked and designated for specific field activities. These recommendations do not apply to open, unmarked and grassy fields otherwise not listed as locations for field activities.

## **Playgrounds**

Many playgrounds were constructed or altered since the ADA Architectural Standards became effective with the 1990 ADA Standards in January 26, 1992. In particular, the Locke School Park and Playground renovations, completed around 2004, achieved excellent consistency with program accessibility objectives and this facility now requires only minor modifications to continue being a lovely and intimate neighborhood place that offers inclusive leisure and play opportunities combined with pleasantly landscaped shady and sunny areas.

Since March 12, 2012, the 2010 ADA Standards required that all areas of newly designed and newly constructed buildings and facilities and altered portions of existing buildings and facilities shall comply with these requirements. Key provisions are that both ground level and elevated play components must ensure that a specified number of the ground-level play components and at least 50 percent of the elevated play components are accessible.

In addition, the new and altered play area accessible route guidelines which will enable unrestricted circulation to, between and around all accessible play elements within play areas. Transfer steps to larger composite play structures are included along an accessible route as are the bottoms (exit points) of slides that are accessed via transfer steps or accessible elevated routes. Accessible route requirements for play areas allow for steeper runs slopes that are allowed in public rights of ways and facility interior routes (1:16 instead of 1:12); however the cross slope specifications are equivalent with accessible routes in public rights of ways, interior walkways, etc.

Level and firm ground play surfaces and accessible entry/exits to play areas adjoining at least one accessible route are necessary architectural elements for play areas to be accessible.

#### Findings:

Arlington currently has two locations that include play structures with elevated accessible routes. At these locations, children with disabilities gain access to at least 51% of the elevated play types provided:

- Locke School Playground;
- Buck Field / Hill's Hill Playground;

These two locations offer the most integrated and inclusive playground opportunities at this time. The Locke School Playground has minor needs, as detailed above, to provide access into recessed play areas and provide accessible circulation at and between play components. The Buck Field / Hill's Hill playground has capital needs recommendations, because it is located within the Sports Complex, which currently does not provide accessible routes to site arrival points. Unfortunately, this accessible route issue currently prohibits accessible approach and use of that exciting playground. For detailed whole-facility recommendations on both facilities, please see Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

Capital Improvements projects have resulted in notably excellent play areas improvements at the following locations:

- Florence Avenue Park;
- Peirce School Park;
- Summer Street Park (intergenerational play area).

These locations utilize unified ground surface materials, which are found to require less maintenance than loose fill ground surface materials. Unitary ground surface materials are generally resilient to ensure safety (Impact attenuation) requirements in addition to the need to provide integrated accessible circulation at and around accessible play elements and structures.

The above playgrounds can further be improved in the future should new resources for alteration and enhancement be available with the inclusion of accessible elevated play components to offer

exciting and varied types of inclusive and accessible play opportunities that are not limited to the ground play types.<sup>19</sup>

The following playground was newly constructed after 2003 and has accessible ground surfaces, but does not include a proportionate number of varied types of accessible play components:

- McClennen Park.

It is recommended that if new resources for alteration and enhancement be available for McClennen Park, the Department should purchase and install an elevated accessible ramp route to at least 25% of the elevated play types included at the larger composite structure. An additional distinctive accessible ground play component integrated within the play area can provide sensory stimulation and cues that will be attractive to children with cognitive and sensory disabilities.

The majority of playgrounds had the following two issues at one or more play areas:

1. A border fully encloses the play area which creates a change in level between inside and outside the play area. Therefore, there is no independent accessible entry/exit opening or accessible route between play areas and the rest of the facility areas, elements and amenities.
2. Play areas have inaccessible ground surfaces, including uneven slopes, lack of accessible cross slopes, holes, protrusions, and depressions. In general, this is found where loose fill surface materials are utilized. These materials have been found to require high maintenance and frequent replenishment to maintain accessible slopes. In addition, studies have proven that loose fill materials are not easy for wheeled mobility users to move around in.

Those repeated issues apply to the following 14 playground locations:

- Bishop Field: two play areas;
- Buzzell Field: one play area;
- Crosby School / Tennis Courts: one large play area;
- Cutter School / Reinhart Park: one play area;
- Gibbs Gym: two play areas adjacent to school and open to public after school hours;
- Reservoir Beach: three play areas;
- Magnolia Park: one play area;
- Menotomy Rocks Park: one play area;
- Parallel Park: one play area;
- Parmenter: one play area;
- Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground: one play area;
- Poet's Corner: one play area;
- Robbins Farm: two play areas plus Long Slide (entry to Slide is not accessible);

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<sup>19</sup> Please note: existing play areas that are less than 1,000 square feet are not exempt from the 2010 ADA supplemental Standards for play areas, effective March 15, 2012.

- Spy Pond Park: one play area;
- Waldo Park: two play areas.

No findings are listed for the following play areas, which were under construction during survey:

- Hibbert Street Park;
- Lussiano Field.

Recommendations, without much difficulty or expense:

- 1) Add an accessible entry/exit to each recessed or sandy play area within facility by installing a ramped entry or a level entry to both recessed playground. Project completion objectives should include:  
Each play area will be connected to at least one accessible walkway that connects with other park and playground programs and amenities, including benches, picnic areas, other sports activities, and at-grade entrances to facility.
- 2) Provide an accessible Route within play area using one or both of the following methods:
  - a) Using high-frequency maintenance programs as a method of achieving program access. If only loose fill ground surface materials are used, implement a high-frequency maintenance program to ensure accessibility of ground surface materials through all seasons.
  - b) Using replacement of ground surface materials as a method of achieving program access. If ground surface materials will be replaced: consider adding unitary surface materials within the playground areas to provide accessible routes and clear ground spaces to all entry/exit points of ground play elements, including swingsets, play structure transfer station, and ground play elements.

Regardless of which method is used, Play Area Accessible Route Project completion objectives should include:

Each accessible play element and composite play structure element will be connected to all other accessible entry and exit points within the play areas; and will be linked with all other program areas, elements and amenities (including benches, picnic areas, portable toilets, drinking fountains, spectator areas, team playing areas, team meeting areas) in addition to the facility's at-grade entrances.

## **Parking Facilities**

Most parking facilities provide an adequate number of accessible parking spaces and access aisles with compliant widths and lengths; however, cross slopes of parking space access aisles and adjoining crosswalk areas are excessive. Accessible route connections between accessible parking spaces and

the entry points of the facility they serve were found to have excessive cross and run slopes, inaccessible curb cuts and sidewalks, uneven ground surface issues which results in unusable and inaccessible facilities.

Findings:

The following parking facilities did not include marked accessible spaces and access aisles, where at least one accessible space with access aisle is required at a location as near as is practicably possible to the facility programs:

- Buck Field / Hill's Hill (Sports Complex);
- Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground;
- Reservoir Beach;
- Summer Street Park.

The following parking facilities have an adequate number of marked accessible parking spaces; however, the designated parking spaces are not provided in accordance with accessibility standards in effect when restriped. This impacts program accessibility and is considered a crucial program accessibility recommendation:<sup>20</sup>

- Bishop Field;
- Ed Burns Arena;
- McClennen Park;
- Ottoson Field / Crusher Lot;
- Peirce School Park;
- Spy Pond Park;
- Thorndike Park / Magnolia Field.

The following facilities also have areas routinely used for passenger drop-off areas; these are not accessible:

- Sports Complex: passenger waiting area at accessible entrance of Ed Burns Arena;
- Gibbs Gym: unmarked passenger loading/drop-off area on Tufts Street.

Recommendations, without much difficulty or expense:

- Install the required parking signs;
- Provide at least one van-accessible space closest to the combined facility entrance;

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<sup>20</sup> Effective date for ADA 1991 Standards is January 26, 1992; the 2010 ADA Standards, requirements became effective on March 15, 2012.

Recommendations, Capital Project:

- Construct an accessible route, including curb ramp, joining accessible parking spaces to the sidewalk route leading to the ballfield bleachers, team clubhouse, and dugout areas.
- Connect all programs, such as the playground and picnic areas, perimeter of field playing areas, bleachers inside the facility, and all field gates inside facility with the exterior accessible route from accessible parking space(s) to the combined facility entrance;
- Re-grade parking area to not exceed 1:48 cross slope in all directions.

**Prioritizing Accessibility Modifications – Recommended Order of Considerations:**

This ADA Compliance Study was contracted by the Town's Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission in order to prepare a Self-Evaluation that will be the basis of an ADA Transition Plan in order for the Department and Commission to create a planning and budgeting strategy to comply with the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), including modifications made by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008; and incorporating the scoping and technical requirements as set forth in the 2010 ADA Standards for non-compliant existing facilities that will be altered and for new construction.

The Department of Justice provides a non-exhaustive list of considerations for determining program access priorities where a similar program may be offered at multiple sites. Such factors include: The size of the public entity, the particular program features offered at each site, the geographical distance between sites, the travel times to the sites, the number of sites, and availability of public transportation to the sites. Additional factors specific to existing accessibility conditions include<sup>21</sup>:

- Availability of accessible pedestrian routes to the playgrounds;
- Ready availability of accessible transportation;
- Comparable amenities and services in and surrounding the play areas;
- Size of the playgrounds;
- Sufficient variety in accessible play components within the playgrounds.

Recommended priority considerations are tailored to assist the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission in developing large and smaller capital improvement projects in order for the Department and the Town to achieve its program accessibility objectives under Title II of the ADA. The development of this plan is part of the Town and Department's ADA administrative mandates<sup>22</sup>. Specifically, the Department is required to complete an ADA Self Evaluation (this report) as a prerequisite to developing what is known as the ADA Transition Plan. The ADA transition plan must include a schedule for providing access features, including curb ramps for walkways.<sup>23</sup> The transition plan will accomplish the following four tasks:

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<sup>21</sup> These factors were suggested by individuals with disabilities who provided user-expert comments to the Department of Justice after reviewing the draft regulations and prior to their adoption.

<sup>22</sup> Please see Part B- Evaluation of Program Policies, Practices and Procedures for further discussion of the Department's 5 administrative mandates, including the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

<sup>23</sup> 28 CFR §35.150(d)(2) Also see Part A, Legal Requirements-- Joint Requirements, DOJ and DOT, Street & Road Resurfacing

- Identify physical obstacles in the public agency's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs or activities to individuals with disabilities;
- Describe in detail the specific corrective action that will be used to make the facilities accessible;
- Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to upgrade pedestrian access to meet accessibility requirements in each year following the transition plan;
- Indicate the official responsible for implementation of the plan by name.

Using the results from this ADA Self-Evaluation as a foundation, the Department and Commission must develop the Transition Plan through an iterative process involving public meetings and in concert with all associated stakeholders.

Programs must be offered in a manner that is congruent with the principles of Title II of the ADA. The ADA's program accessibility requirement is to make each of the programs, *services, and activities, when viewed in their entirety*, readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. *Each of the programs, services, and activities when viewed in their entirety* is the phrase that qualifies the analysis of program accessibility requirements.

In achieving program accessibility compliance, the Recreation Department is obligated to conduct the inspection of facilities in order to assess to what extent the structural and communications accessibility standards are being met to ensure the achievement of program accessibility standards.

### Suggested order of Priorities

Under those overarching Title II requirements, the program<sup>24</sup> analysis can be categorized and combined in various ways, depending on the Department's overall needs and objectives against the backdrop of the Department's and Commission's legal obligations and responsibilities. IHCD analyzed the Department's programs as a whole, then the programs being offered at each facility as a whole, and then the separate programs being offered at each facility within the context of transportation and neighborhood. This analysis yielded the following six categories in order of suggested priorities:

- 1) Unique Programs which are associated with revenue and registration;
- 2) Unique Programs which may or may not be associated with fees, but are public programs not duplicated elsewhere within the Department's facility portfolio;
- 3) Facilities which include programs managed and overseen by the Recreation Department in collaboration with other Town Departments;

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<sup>24</sup> For purposes of simplicity, the term "programs" will be used in this section to cover the Department's ADA program obligations pertaining to programs, services, activities, events, opportunities, benefits, aids, and assistance that are named in Departmental information as being provided to the public by Arlington Recreation. The information that was reviewed included the publicly disseminated seasonal brochures, the Town of Arlington Recreation Department website at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov>, and the Arlington Recreation Activities information at <http://www.arlingtonrec.com>

- 4) Programs which offer unique location-specific elements that are not duplicated at other similar programs;
- 5) Programs that are provided at locations that also offer multi-modal transportation options;
- 6) Programs within areas of Town that would be underserved with regards to that particular program if the residents were not provided proximate availability of that program.

Prioritized facilities listed below require mitigation of program barriers; have programs that are site-specific (i.e., cannot be relocated without altering the fundamental nature of the programs being provided on that site); can solve some or all of these issues with minor or major accessibility renovations; and also include portions that are considered noncomplying elements because they were constructed or altered not in accordance with the Federal and/or State standards in effect at the time of construction.:

### **1) Unique programs which are associated with revenue and registration**

The following facilities provide fee-based and rental opportunity programs; and the Department collects applicant and registration information from individual participants and non-municipal agencies, organizations, and teams. Along with the necessary structural and communications modifications to ensure that these programs are provided in a minimally accessible manner, the Department must also ensure that accurate information regarding accessibility features (or not) is provided up front so that participants and rental organizations can determine if these programs are currently *readily available*:

- Ed Burns Arena and Sports Complex (includes Summer Street Park / Buck Field / Hill's Hill);
- Gibbs Gym;
- Spy Pond Park;
- Reservoir Beach.

### **2) Unique programs that may or may not be associated with fees, but are public programs not duplicated elsewhere within the Department's ADA Compliance Survey portfolio**

These unique program facilities require minor or major structural modifications in order to come into minimal compliance with the ADA's program accessibility requirements:

- Robbins Farm: community events, Boston viewing oval, cooperative learning garden, picnic opportunities;
- Spy Pond Field: ballfield spectator venue, links to the MBTA-owned bikeway trail;
- Spy Pond Park: community events, rowing program, shoreline path, links to the MBTA-owned bikeway trail;

- Menotomy Rocks Park: community events, accessible pond viewing location, accessible tables, picnic opportunities;
- McClennen Park: skateboard park, accessible playground, pond trails, picnic opportunities;
- Thorndike Park: off-leash dog recreation area (OLRA);
- W.A. Peirce Fields: spectator track and field;
- Crosby School / Tennis Courts: tennis tournaments.

### **3) Facilities that include programs managed and overseen by the Recreation Department in collaboration with other Town Departments**

#### Indoor Facilities:

- Ed Burns Arena: Ice Hockey (Boys, Girls).

#### Outdoor Facilities:

- W.A. Peirce Fields: Baseball, Football, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Outdoor Track, Cross Country;
- Reservoir: Cross Country;
- Buzzell Field: Softball;
- Crosby School / Tennis Courts: Tennis (Boys, Girls)
- Wellington Park: Tennis (Boys, Girls)
- Dallin School Field: Lacrosse;
- Lussiano Field: Baseball, Softball;
- Spy Pond Field: Baseball, Soccer;
- Thorndike Park & Magnolia Field – Soccer (Boys, Girls), Lacrosse;
- Summer Street Park – Baseball, Field Hockey.

This category also includes elementary school playgrounds, which combine the Department's management and program responsibilities during public use after-hours and on weekends with the Town's obligations as carried forward by the schools:

- Bishop Field: Bishop School;
- Lussiano Field: Thompson School;
- Ottoson Field / Crusher Lot: Ottoson School;
- Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground : Stratton Elementary School;
- Peirce School: Peirce School Playground.

### **4) Programs that offer unique location-specific elements that are not duplicated at other similar programs**

- Florence Park: model accessible playground, zip line, accessible game table;
- Hurd Field: parking facility outdoors lights, connection with trails and beach;

- Summer Street Park: intergenerational play area, fitness route;
- Wellington Park.

**5) Programs that are provided at locations that also offer multi-modal transportation options**

- Shared-Use/Bikeway Trails access.

**6) Programs within areas of Town that would be underserved with regards to that particular program if the residents were not provided proximate availability of that program.**

Examples of such proximity issues include areas where subsidized housing is offered to distinct types of underserved populations, including low-income older residents, and individuals with disabilities. For example, Cusack Terrace, a housing development specifically for older and disabled residents, is located near Buzzell Field and facilities along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway trails. The Drake Village Complex is another such example, and is located near Hurd Field / Reservoir and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway trails.

The analysis of suggested priorities 6) and 7) are also based upon neighborhood proximity. For example, when choosing which playground to renovate next, the Department may look at the portfolio while considering which neighborhoods are not currently being served by accessible playgrounds.

Facilities in East Arlington (9 total):

- Thorndike Park;
- Magnolia Park;
- Waldo Park;
- Lussiano Field;
- Crosby School / Tennis Courts;
- Gibbs Gym;
- Parallel Park;
- Spy Pond Park;
- Scannell Field.

Facilities in Central Arlington (14 total):

- Bishop Field;
- Buzzell Field;
- W.A. Peirce Fields;
- Spy Pond Fields & Tennis Courts;
- Wellington Park;
- Sports Complex;
- Parmenter;
- Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground;

- Menotomy Rocks Park;
- Robbins Farm;
- Cutter School / Reinhart Park.

Facilities in Arlington Heights (9 total):

- McClennen Park;
- Peirce School Park;
- Reservoir Beach;
- Hurd / Reservoir;
- Locke School Playground;
- Ottoson Field / Crusher Lot;
- Florence Avenue Park;
- Hibbert Street Park;
- Poet's Corner.

For further priority considerations, the following is an example of how the facility analysis was conducted:

Ed Burns Arena (State-owned, Town-managed)

Programs offered to the public:

- General public, all-ages: indoor ice facility for public skating and spectator sports, protected fixed seating for 1,085 spectators, snack bar and vending machines, skate rentals and sharpening, parking for Sports Complex (includes Ed Burns Rink, Buck Field, Hill's Hill, and Summer Street Park);
- Age-specific: Spring Leagues for Grades 5 - 8 (Street Hockey, Volleyball, Indoor Soccer, Dodge Ball), Special Needs Skate Program, Home of Arlington Hockey and Figure Skating Association, Arlington High School, and Arlington Catholic High School Leagues.

Barriers found at the facility: the programs at the rink are not provided in a manner that meets the program accessibility requirements because the following facility areas, elements and amenities create barriers to people with disabilities:

- Pedestrian Crosswalk Area;
- Curb Ramps;
- Sidewalks;
- Off-street Parking Spaces;
- Point of Entry, Entrances;
- Walkways;
- Rink;
- Spectator Seating;
- Service Counters;
- Tables;

- Team Benches;
- Drinking Fountains;
- Public toilet rooms;
- Emergency egress procedures and locations.

All of the accessibility issues mentioned above prevent individuals with disabilities from fully and equally enjoying the services, programs, and activities offered at the Ed Burns Arena and constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability.<sup>25</sup>

1) Unique Programs which are associated with revenue and registration:

- Between April- August, the rink is available for family and other rentals, providing the following programs: Birthday Parties: Rink Area, Batting Cages, Indoor Puck Shooting, Indoor Floor Hockey, Indoor Soccer, Lacrosse, Basketball;
- Between September and April the Rink is open to the public. There are also special pre-season public skate schedules during August;<sup>26</sup>
- Special Events at the Arena in Spring, 2014 included:
  - Police & Firemen Games “Guns –N-Hoses” March 21 Proceeds to benefit Autism Speaks Foundation;
  - Women’s Hockey Jamboree Shoot for the Cure March 28 Proceeds to benefit Breast Cancer Research;
- Sports classes and team participation for all ages during the Spring Leagues at the Arena session included the opportunity to learn and participate in street hockey, volleyball, indoor soccer, and dodge ball;
- The Department offers marketing opportunities at the rink, with options such as banners, illuminated signage, Zamboni, scoreboard and seasonal brochure.

2) Unique Programs that may or may not be associated with fees, but are public programs not duplicated elsewhere within the Department’s ADA Compliance Survey portfolio:

- The Indoor Skating Rink is the only such facility in the Town;
- The Ed Burns Arena is a meeting place for many Recreation programs held within Arlington in addition to outside of Arlington. For example: Menotomy Golf, for grades 6 - 9; Kick & Play for toddlers (the actual program takes place at Hill’s Hill).

3) Facilities that include programs managed and overseen by the Recreation Department in collaboration with other Town Departments:

- The rink is host to school field trips;

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<sup>25</sup> within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 12132 and 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.149 and 35.150

<sup>26</sup> as listed here [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/PublicSkate](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/PublicSkate)

- Young people's social events at the Arena included School Dances- 5th Grade Social / Dance May 16 and June 6.

Non-compliance with Federal and State Accessibility Standards in effect at the time of construction, alterations, additions, remodeling, or change of use: major capital improvements at the Ed Burns Rink were completed in 2010. According to the Arlington 2010 Annual Report, these included:<sup>27</sup>

- Increased size of players benches;
- Modified penalty box area and timer's booth;
- Updated "handicapped ramp and viewing area".

Federal Standards: non-complying new construction and alterations at the Ed Burns Arena/Sports Center are subject to the 2010 ADA Title II Standards<sup>28</sup>. 28 CFR Part 35, § 35.151 (c)(5)(ii)<sup>29</sup> which states:

Newly constructed or altered facilities or elements covered by §§ 35.151(a) or (b) that were constructed or altered before March 15, 2012 and that do not comply with the 1991 Standards or with UFAS shall, on or after March 15, 2012, be made accessible in accordance with the 2010 Standards."<sup>30</sup>

State Standards: the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) has jurisdiction over adherence to the State Architectural Access code at 521 CMR for all new construction and existing buildings – see <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/dps/aab-regs/521003.pdf>.

- As the renovations to the Ed Burns Arena was over \$500,000, the following elements must be provided in compliance with 521 CMR even where they may not have been altered during the recent renovations:
- An accessible public entrance,
- An accessible toilet room,
- Telephone, drinking fountain (if toilets, telephones and drinking fountains are provided)

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<sup>27</sup>info retrieved 1/30/14 from:

[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2010/Recreation.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2010/Recreation.pdf) (p.61)

<sup>28</sup> The complete 2010 ADA Standards, including both the Title II regulations at 28 CFR 35.151; and the 2004 ADAAG at 36 CFR part 1191, appendices B and D, can be accessed online at [http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards\\_prt.pdf](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards_prt.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> The 2010 Standards are effective as of March 15, 2012. At the time of this facility's renovations, they were subject to the substantially similar 1991 ADA Title II Standards (or the UFAS). 28 CFR § 35.151(b) Alterations: " Each facility or part of a facility altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity in a manner that affects or could affect the usability of the facility or part of the facility shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be altered in such manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if the alteration was commenced after January 26, 1992."

<sup>30</sup> Complete 2010 ADA Title II Standards can be accessed online at [http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards\\_prt.pdf](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards_prt.pdf).

In addition, since the renovations amount to 30% or more of the full and fair cash value of this facility, *the entire building* is required to comply, at this time, with 521 CMR.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, all facility spaces, areas, elements and public amenities at the Ed Burns Arena are required to be compliant with State regulations at 521 CMR at this time.

## **Legal Overview**

The Town of Arlington is obligated by both Federal and State laws and codes concerning the rights of people with disabilities in the daily provision of programs, services, and activities. This 'Legal Overview' offers a brief explanation of Federal and State Obligations:

### **Federal Obligation: American with Disabilities Act**

Based on the 1964 Civil Rights Act and expanding upon the obligations of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. The ADA provides civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those afforded to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The cornerstone of Title II of the ADA, which applies to state and local governments, is clear: no qualified person with a disability may be excluded from participating in, or denied the benefits of, the programs, services, and activities provided by state and local governments because of a disability. The ADA defines a disability as<sup>32</sup>:

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (i.e. working, talking, hearing, seeing, caring for one's self);
- Having a record of a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Being regarded by others as having an impairment such as individuals with severe facial scarring.

Following the passage of the ADA, the Department of Justice issued the 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Accessibility Guidelines – ADAAG) to address physical access to facilities and transportation. These standards were based almost exclusively on the US Access Board's guidelines. In 1994, slight technical amendments were made. Then in 2004, after years of public comment, the US Access Board issued new guidelines that were promptly adopted by US Department of Transportation and other federal agencies. But only in 2010 did the Department of Justice issue a revised and updated ADA Standard called the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (2010 ADA Standards) that would apply to all Title II and Title III entities. These standards revised requirements for policies such as ticketing and service animals, and for physical elements such as assembly seating, established

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<sup>31</sup> This facility's renovations exceeded 100% of the full and fair cash value because, according to the Assessor's database, the full and fair cash value of "Town of Arlington Park MDC Rink" is \$809,100 (2012).

<sup>32</sup> To learn more qualified individuals with disabilities or to read the full text of the ADA, please visit <http://www.ada.gov/> or <http://www.disability.gov/>.

construction tolerances for certain elements and formalized long-standing guidelines for docks, fields, pools, and other recreational facilities.

While the Recreation Department did not provide IHCD with information about the dates of alterations, it is clear that the Town has undertaken renovations to facilities after the passage and enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1991. Newly constructed or altered facilities or elements that were constructed or altered before March 15, 2012 and that do not comply with the 1991 Standards or with UFAS shall on or after March 15, 2012, be made accessible in accordance with the 2010 Standards.<sup>33</sup> Further, it is important to note that those elements in existing Town facilities that are subject to supplemental requirements of the 2010 ADA Standards (i.e., elements for which there are neither technical nor scoping specifications in the 1991 Standards) such as (C) Recreational boating facilities; (D) Exercise machines and equipment; (E) Fishing piers and platforms; (H) Play areas; (J) Swimming pools, wading pools, and spas; and (L) Miscellaneous - (1) Team or player seating and (3) Accessible route in court sports facilities, need to be brought into compliance with 2010 ADA Standards if there are alterations or new facilities undertaken.<sup>34</sup>

Though IHCD used the 2010 ADA Standards in surveying facilities, it is not expected that the facilities will meet or be brought up to all of these standards absent significant or total renovation. State and local governments must ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from services, programs, and activities because facilities are inaccessible. This means Title II entities need not remove physical barriers, as long as they make their programs accessible to individuals who are unable to use an inaccessible existing facility.

Municipalities also have an Effective Communication mandate with people who have hearing, vision, or speech disabilities. And they are required to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures where necessary to ensure program accessibility and the equal participation of people with disabilities.

### **Other Federal Obligations: Rehabilitation Act**

While the ADA is perhaps best known of disability civil rights laws, the Town of Arlington has other ongoing Federal obligations concerning accessibility. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by Federal agencies, in programs receiving Federal financial assistance, in Federal employment, and in the employment practices of Federal contractors. The standards for determining employment discrimination under the Rehabilitation Act are the same as those used in title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **State Obligations: Massachusetts Architectural Access Board**

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<sup>33</sup> As described in 28 CFR 35.151(c) – Accessibility Standards and Compliance Date

<sup>34</sup> As described in 28 CFR 35.150(b)(2)(i)

The Architectural Access Board (AAB) is a regulatory agency whose mandate is to develop and enforce regulations that are part of the Massachusetts Building Code designed to make public buildings accessible to, functional for and safe for use by persons with disabilities – see 521 C.M.R. In addition to writing regulations, the Board decides on variance requests, provides training on its regulations, issues advisory opinions and makes decisions on complaints. Local building inspectors are responsible for enforcing the regulations which are a specialized section of the Massachusetts Building Code – see 780 C.M.R.

The construction, reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, or change of use of a building or facility that is open to the public triggers the authority of the AAB. New construction must fully comply. For renovation, remodeling, or alteration:

- The work being done must comply with the regulations;
- If the work done in any 36-month period is greater than \$100,000, the “work being performed” is required to comply. In addition, an accessible entrance and an accessible toilet room, telephone and drinking fountain (if toilets, telephones and drinking fountains are provided) shall also be provided;
- If the work done in a 36-month period is more than 30% of the “full and fair cash value” of the building, the entire building must come into compliance.

Enforcement: Anyone can file a complaint with the Board. The Board has the authority to issue variances and/or impose fines of up to \$1000 per violation per day of noncompliance with its order.

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## PART B - Evaluation of Non-discriminatory Policies and Practices in Programs, Services, and Activities

### Introduction

The Town of Arlington's Recreation Department operates and manages the Reservoir Beach, Gibbs Gym at Gibbs Center, Ed Burns Arena, North Union Spray Pool, and the Off-Leash Dog Area at Thorndike Park. In addition, the Recreation Department oversees the operations, capital improvements, scheduling and permitting to all the parks and playgrounds in the Town of Arlington under the Park and Recreation Commission's jurisdiction.<sup>1</sup> The Department also collaborates with the Conservation Committee and other Town Commissions to be excellent stewards of these Town assets.

Recreation program facility management and maintenance is organized into two divisions: the recreation facilities and the Ed Burns Arena at the Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.<sup>2</sup> The Town's Department of Public Works maintains the recreation facilities and the Recreation Department's rink staff (facilities supervisor and building maintenance craftsman) manages and maintains the State-owned Arena.

The Recreation Department's programs are intended to be self-sustaining. This is being accomplished through user fees, program fees, facility rental opportunities, additional programming, fundraising and specialized marketing opportunities at the rink.<sup>3</sup> Programs are continually being added, improved, and changed to accommodate the needs of the public. New programs offered in 2013 included: Archery, Saturday Night Lights Flag Football, Lego Classes, Toddler Art Classes, SHINE Special Needs Soccer Classes, Volleyball Clinic, Expanded Adult Tennis Lessons, Fit Doggie and Me Training, and the iCan Shine Learn to Bike program for youth with special needs.<sup>4</sup> The Department is expanding its State-licensed Kid Care after-school program and has started a new Fun School pre-school program.

In collaboration with other Town organizations, groups, and with the guidance of the Park and Recreation Commission, the Recreation Department approves, supports, and manages a vibrant schedule of Town-wide special events. For example, the Department sponsors the September Walter V. Moynihan Town Day Run in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club and Fidelity House. In 2013, such Town-wide special events included a Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg Hunt, Halloween, and Special

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<sup>1</sup> This summary of Department Programs and services is found in the Arlington FY15 Enterprise Fund description at [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Financial/budget/2015/EnterpriseFund.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Financial/budget/2015/EnterpriseFund.pdf), p. 160.

<sup>2</sup> The division of responsibilities reflects the fact that the skating rink is owned by the Commonwealth and managed by the Arlington Recreation Department. The facility is referred to by various names. This report uses the name provided by the Recreation Department in the Town's Annual Reports. In the Enterprise Fund report, the Recreation summary refers to the Ed Burns Arena/Sports Center Enterprise Fund. The Arlington Master Plan Working Paper Series, 2014 refers to this facility as the Arlington Sports Center and Veterans Memorial Skating Rink.

<sup>3</sup> This list based on a review of the Department's Annual Report summaries, 2005-2013, plus the Recreation Department FY15 Budget Statement in the Enterprise Fund report, at [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Financial/budget/2015/EnterpriseFund.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Financial/budget/2015/EnterpriseFund.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> 2013 Recreation Department Summary, Arlington Annual reports, p. 63.

Winter Public Skate.<sup>5</sup> The Department has shared responsibilities with the School Athletic Department and District to review and manage programs and activities held at facilities with shared maintenance and scheduling tasks, such as the field permit programs and policies, and a full schedule of Summer Day programs.

Department staffing includes seasonal employees for the Recreation programs, and Seasonal Employees for the Rink and the Recreation programs held at the Ed Burns Arena/Sports Center.<sup>6</sup>

Regular free programs managed by the Department include the North Union Spray Park, neighborhood pocket parks and playgrounds, large parks with nature trails and picnic/seating areas, an off-leash dog park, and an off-leash dog walking program at certain parks.

Each of the programs, services, and activities that are organized, developed, implemented and managed by the Recreation Department, and subsequently provided to the public, contain background policies, practices and procedures that may impact the Department's capacity to achieve the objectives of the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act that are folded into the department's overall responsibilities as a representative of the Town, a public entity.

IHCD applauds the Department's proactive stance in updating its ADA Self-Evaluation at this time. This is an important administrative step to ensure that the requirements of the Title II of the ADA are being met. Additionally, a Title II entity is required to:

- a) Designate a Responsible Employee (ADA Title II - 28 CFR Part 35.107 (a)) to coordinate compliance with the ADA. The purpose of having a responsible employee – ADA Coordinator - is to ensure that when the public deals with a Town department, the public is able to identify a person who is knowledgeable with the requirements of the ADA.
- b) Adopt and distribute a public Notice (ADA Title II - 28 CFR Part 35.106) of the provisions of the ADA to members of the public who may participate in the Town's programs, services and activities. The effective notice should state the Town's obligations under the ADA and include the complete contact information of the ADA coordinator.
- c) Develop and distribute Grievance Procedures (ADA Title II - 28 CFR Part 35.107 (b)) for prompt resolution of any complaint regarding disability discrimination.

Below is a discussion of how the Department's background programs, services, resources, operations, and management practices can be utilized to further develop the capacity to meet the objectives of the Title II while adopting standard operating procedures that increase the quality of the programs, services, and activities in recreation facilities for all:

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<sup>5</sup> 2013 Recreation Department Summary, Arlington Annual reports, p. 63

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Financial/budget/2015/EnterpriseFund.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Financial/budget/2015/EnterpriseFund.pdf), p. 163.

**1) Recommendations to increase the Department's capacity to provide the necessary information to the public, as required by the administrative mandates of the Title II:**

- The Town of Arlington provides contact information of the directors of each program at its Recreation Department but there is not information about the ADA Coordinator<sup>7</sup>. Ensure that staff knows who to contact in case of a request from residents and/or visitors for accommodation and/or modifications.
- Adopt a uniform policy regarding the posting of ADA notices in the Town's parks. Provide the information on an ongoing basis whenever necessary. This information should be included in job applications, local newspaper, Town's website, and posted at all facilities where services, programs and activities are provided.
- Ensure that the information on the parks and recreation page of the Town website has a non-discrimination notice about the Town policies.
- Ensure that information about ADA compliance and availability of accommodations to the public and first-time visitors as well as complete contact information of the ADA Coordinator (name, office location, email address, telephone, fax, etc.) is provided in all publications, admissions materials, events notices, and program announcements distributed by the Department.
- At all public entrances of indoor facilities (Recreation Department Office, Ed Burns Arena, Gibbs Gym) as well as at bulletin boards provided at outdoor facilities, post a Notice of the ADA Compliance including complete contact information of the ADA Coordinator, in addition to the information about the Director of the Recreation Department.
- Provide a copy of the grievance procedure form in all materials distributed by the Recreation Department. The form should include the complete contact information of the ADA Coordinator, in addition to the information about the Director of the Recreation Department.

**2) Recommendations to increase the Department's site management and planning capacity** relative to the operation and management of facilities managed by the Department (Reservoir Beach, Gibbs Gym at Gibbs Center, Ed Burns Arena, North Union Spray Pool, and the Off-Leash Dog Area at Thorndike Park) are developed against the backdrop of the civil rights principles and

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<sup>7</sup> Title II of the ADA makes clear that a public entity must designate a responsible employee and adopt grievance processes. See 35 CFR Part 35.107 (a). While the Town of Arlington has designated an ADA Coordinator- Jack Jones, who is the Director of Housing and Disability Programs- the Town's online directory of "Assistance Programs" (<http://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/health-human-services/assistance-programs>) lists the Arlington ADA office phone number and email contact under the heading "*Disabled Persons Protection Commission*." This listing does not provide adequate information for interested residents to learn who the Town's ADA Coordinator is; or, what the Town ADA Coordinator's role and responsibilities are; or, how this person can and will assist residents.

prohibitions of the ADA:

*No qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.*<sup>8</sup>

- As facilities are altered, the Department should incorporate the structural accessibility findings from this ADA Self-Evaluation report into the articulation of existing site conditions at each program facility – please refer to Part C - Evaluation of Facilities. For example, the Reservoir Beach site management plan<sup>9</sup> can incorporate the following additional information:
  - The beach access ramp leading into the water is not maintained as an accessible route with smooth, firm and non-slip floor surface conditions;
  - The concrete walkway to the toilet rooms and concessions building has excessive cross slopes;
  - The concession counter is inaccessible because it is too high;
  - Play areas are not adjoining an accessible route, are surfaced with sand, which is an inaccessible ground surface material, and one play area is separated from surrounding benches and tables by a recessed border;
  - Benches and picnic tables are not adjoining an accessible route and lack a clear floor location for integration of users of wheeled mobility devices;
  - Accessible parking spaces furnished during the summer season are not connected to the beach area by an accessible route.
- Site accessibility maintenance and repair issues should be integrated into the "outstanding issues" priorities list and considered in the same manner as other general population access issues. For example, the Reservoir beach site management plan mentions the lack of *year round access* and the impact of limited seasonal parking availability as a concern to be addressed in tandem with the landscape remediation plans. Where general public access to facility programs is being expanded, consider flagging any remaining physical and program accessibility needs at the facility into those planning efforts right from the start.
- The Department is constantly juggling different construction projects with different construction companies. Nevertheless, the Department should update or establish a set of Department-wide standards to ensure that construction teams provide accessible pedestrian facilities along construction sites. For example, during the renovation of the seasonal spray pool at Lussiano Field, the existing accessible route to the playground and basketball court was obstructed by the construction zone restricted to the construction staff. Because no alternate pedestrian route was provided to the areas open to the public during the renovation, residents with disabilities do not have an accessible entrance to the facility.

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<sup>8</sup> 28 CFR Part 35. § 35.130 General prohibitions against discrimination.

<sup>9</sup> The Reservoir Site Management Plan was reviewed within a document dated 9/27/07 and may not be the most updated version: Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2007 - 2012 (9/27/07), Appendix J.

- As part of this ADA Self-Evaluation report, several facilities were inspected during inclement weather, including during and immediately after snowstorms in the winter of 2013/2014. The Department must ensure maintenance of accessible features during inclement weather and should create a comprehensive maintenance program and schedule to check and maintain all accessible parking spaces, accessible routes between public transit / sidewalks / parking, points of entry to the facilities, tables, benches and areas adjacent to them, areas adjacent to bulletin boards and other directional or informational signs.
- Management guidelines for each facility should be standardized and scheduled with accessibility issues included as part of the program. For example, at the Reservoir Beach, the basic ground maintenance program can include:
  - Sweeping the beach access ramp leading into the water free of sand;
  - Landscaping around bench and picnic tables to maintain accessible firm, level and slip-free paths to approach and use such elements;
  - Checking play area ground material cross slopes and raking, replenishing and sifting loose ground surface materials as needed to maintain firm, smooth, and level accessible cross slopes and a surface free of hidden sharp objects at and around play elements.

Proposed Capital improvement objectives regarding structural accessibility improvements are measurable and can be clearly stated within updates to site management plans as facility management achievements, when complete. An example of measurable objectives might be:

*"An accessible route with consistent smooth and firm 60-inch width, cross slope of no more than 2.08% and run slope of no more than 5% will be constructed leading between the parking lot and the beach access route before the start of the FY15 season."*

Upon completion of this project, the Recreation Department might be able to accurately report:

*"An accessible route was installed between the parking lot and the beach access route prior to the start of the FY15 season. Concurrently, there was an N% increase in the purchase of senior beach tags during the FY15 season."*

- 3) During monthly meetings, the Recreation Department and Park and Recreation Commission develop new policies impacting the use of, and generally expanding the availability of, programs that reach an ever-wider group of residents. **Recommendations to increase the Department's inclusive development of policies, practices, and procedures:**

- Ensure that all community meetings and outreach takes place at facilities known to be fully accessible.<sup>10</sup> Going forward, the Department is already on track in proactively considering site accessibility;

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<sup>10</sup> For example, the Green Dog Neighborhood Outreach meetings (Oct. 2007- January 2008) took place at the Selectmen's Meeting Room in Arlington Town Hall, which is currently documented as a partially accessible facility.

- Develop an "awareness" checklist of language and issues that may tend to exclude or provide unreliable information to individuals with physical, sensory, cognitive, and environmental disabilities; this checklist will assist the Department in avoiding unintentional language that may tend to exclude individuals with disabilities. Seek input from constituents as appropriate;<sup>11</sup>
  - Where new policies or practices implement physical changes to facilities and programs, ensure that the standards or guidelines for such programs build in accessibility standards from the start, rather than viewing accessibility as an "additional" expense.<sup>12</sup> For example, the portable toilet pilot program began in 2009; and may continue to expand to more facilities. In this program, the Department should ensure that the first portable toilet that is installed at any field is an accessible portable toilet, since "at least one accessible" is the general standard;
  - Where the Department, in concert with the Commission, develops guidelines for built-in elements and physical changes or additions to the physical site, consider instituting a default procedure to check current accessibility standards prior to publishing program guidelines. This will enable the department to provide reliable information about program accessibility issues going forward. Accessibility standards, per the ADA, are specific (even construction tolerances are expressed as within a range of specific measurements); therefore, accomplishment of the standards is a measurable achievement.
- 4) The Department's programs are intended to become self-sustaining. New programs are constantly being developed and added to the Department's portfolio. **Recommendations and considerations for future program development** are developed against the backdrop of the civil rights principles and prohibitions of the ADA, in addition to the supportive architectural accessibility standards, known as the 2010 ADA Standards:

*A public entity shall administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.*<sup>13</sup>

*Except as otherwise provided in § 35.150, no qualified individual with a disability shall, because a public entity's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.*<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> For more information regarding communicating with and about people with disabilities, please refer to <http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/comucate.htm> and <http://www.unitedspinal.org/disability-etiquette>.

<sup>12</sup> Disability Commission Minutes, July 21, 2010 show that CDBG funding was used to pay for the "additional cost of the accessible portable toilets."

[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_DisabilityMin/2010/07-21-2010?textPage=1](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_DisabilityMin/2010/07-21-2010?textPage=1)

<sup>13</sup> § 35.130 (d)

<sup>14</sup> § 35.149 Discrimination prohibited.

*(a) General. A public entity shall operate each service, program, or activity so that the service, program, or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.<sup>15</sup>*

- Using the information from this ADA Self-Evaluation report, and going forward, the Department should consider only siting new and expanded programs in facilities that have been accurately evaluated to be accessible;
- Where accessible elements are not within the general path of travel (such as where older existing facilities include an accessible entrance that is not being used as the primary entrance) this information should be published as part of the program facility descriptions, and provided in all facility descriptions as standard operating practice;
- Effective communications issues should be identified as part of program planning and development, and also as part of any marketing opportunities being developed. This includes having alternate formats of visual information readily available, such as having Large Print and accessible digital files already prepared and ready to provide upon request. Similarly, the Department should ensure that registration procedures that involve phone communications include trained staff available for real-time relay phone conversations; or, with the use of more current and effective communication methods for individuals with disabilities, such as videophones, captioned telephones, voice carryover and hearing carryover phones, and pagers and other computer devices that send text or IM messages as options for communication. In addition, all associated web-based forms and public information should be accessible to individuals using assistive technology prior to publication and launch of program. In coordination with Town's ADA coordinator, the Department should maintain a list of such resources and maintain and update this accessible communications list as a standard operating practice.
- Ensuring that publicly disseminated information regarding the Department's programs and facilities is effectively providing accurate and necessary information, an accurate description of the accessibility conditions at Department facilities should be included in public information as a standard operating procedure.
- Program and facility information should also be reviewed and updated routinely to prevent confusion and omission of details that impact program access and wayfinding. (As an example: the Grove St./ Wellington Park Tennis program activities includes a link to Recreation facility descriptions; but neither Grove St. nor Wellington Park are included within that link to Facility listings.<sup>16</sup>
- Where school bus transportation, or any transportation, is provided as part of the program (such as in the Club Rec program), the Department should make arrangements for alternate accessible transportation options upon request. These accessible options should be provided as part of that programs description to the public as a standard operating procedure.

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<sup>15</sup> § 35.150 (a)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/facilities/>

- While the Department is not prohibited from *broaden[ing] program offerings for children with special needs*<sup>17</sup>, it is important for the Department to clarify the principles that cause separate "special needs" programming to be advanced; and to balance those principles with the general information published in the seasonal brochure, which states *"Participants with special needs are encouraged to attend all of our programs. Staff members are sensitive to their needs and will do everything possible to assist. If you are unsure about program registration, call regarding specifics."* Above all, the primary principle should establish why such types of programs are most appropriate for the population the Department expects to serve.
- As the Department continues to clarify what types of programs are particularly suitable and appropriate to add to and develop within its portfolio, the following Title II principle should inform these clarifications and considerations:

*A public entity may not deny a qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in services, programs, or activities that are not separate or different, despite the existence of permissibly separate or different programs or activities;*<sup>18</sup>

- The Department should ensure that published program information does not tend to *impose or apply eligibility criteria that screen out or tend to screen out an individual with a disability or any class of individuals with disabilities from fully and equally enjoying any service, program, or activity, unless such criteria can be shown to be necessary for the provision of the service, program, or activity being offered;*<sup>19</sup>

For example, the Fantastic Gymnastics class at Gibbs Gym has a simple age eligibility requirement: children between 18 months and three years of age must attend with a parent. Added to that is a note that *"children should be good walkers."*<sup>20</sup> This type of eligibility criteria will tend to screen out families with children who may never be "good walkers." Since participation in this basic gymnastics is not conditioned upon any type of audition, it does not appear that such criteria is necessary for fulfilling the program's objectives and should be eliminated from the description.

As another example, the off-leash dog brochure includes the following rule: "You must be able to see your dog at all times and maintain effective verbal control of your dog." This language may give the unintended impression that visually impaired persons were not expected to participate in the program. A suggested alternate phrase is "you must be in contact with your dog at all times."

Further, the Department should be on the lookout for these kinds of subtle criteria, which can tend to exclude families and children who would otherwise wish to explore such opportunities and to benefit from participation just like the other participants.

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<sup>17</sup> This is a stated FY2015 Department Objective in the FY2015 Recreation Enterprise Fund publication, p. 160.

<sup>18</sup> § 35.130 (b) (2)

<sup>19</sup> § 35.130 (b) (8)

<sup>20</sup> Arlington Recreation Program Brochure, Spring/Summer 2014, p. 6.

- 5) In collaboration with other Town organizations, groups, and recreation centers; and with the guidance of the Park and Recreation Commission, the Department approves supports and manages a vibrant schedule of Town-wide special events. **Recommendations regarding the Department's collaborative services** are provided against the backdrop of the civil rights principles and prohibitions of the ADA, in addition to the supportive architectural accessibility standards, known as the 2010 ADA Standards:

*A public entity may not, in determining the site or location of a facility, make selections –*  
*(i) That have the effect of excluding individuals with disabilities from, denying them the benefits of, or otherwise subjecting them to discrimination; or*  
*(ii) That have the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of the service, program, or activity with respect to individuals with disabilities.*

Recommendations regarding collaborations with volunteer groups, sports and team organizations, etc.:

- Using the information from this ADA Self-Evaluation report, and going forward, the Department should condition approval of special event locations to only occur at sites or areas that are reliably known to be accessible by current standards;<sup>21</sup>
- Where the proposal is for special and new installations, the department should include the following basic checklist:
  - The installation adjoins an accessible route, which is within the general public path of travel;
  - Integrated seating for users of wheeled mobility devices is built into any installments where seating is provided;
  - If the installation includes public contact, all controls must be within reach ranges (generally 15" - 48" above the ground or floor) by a forward or parallel approach;
  - If there are design considerations, these must include accessibility standards where appropriate and universal design principles wherever possible.

An example of a program installation that is a wonderful addition to an already unique facility is the art installation at the Menotomy Rocks Park. However, this novel social program is not currently adjoining an accessible route; and, there is no location around this "Council Ring" for integrated seating of individuals using wheeled mobility devices, canes, walkers, etc. Therefore, at this time, the program is not only inaccessible, but newly so. Relatively minor accessibility adjustments are needed to transform the art installation into an inclusive asset as soon as is practicably possible – please refer to Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for recommendations.

Going forward, the Department can be proactive in enabling inclusive considerations to be part of program and element installation at all facilities under its management; and, in the case of

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<sup>21</sup> For detailed information about accessible temporary events, please refer to <http://dhs.sd.gov/accessibility/documents/Accessible%20Temporary%20Events%20Planning%20Guide.pdf>.

installations that were not developed with these considerations, the Department is responsible for ensuring that program accessibility standards are met as soon as is practicably possible.

6) The Department has shared responsibilities with the School Athletic Department and District.<sup>22</sup> The Department is advised to share the recent (2013) Department of Education Guidance provided to ensure that students with disabilities consistently have opportunities to participate in extracurricular athletics equal to those of other students.<sup>23</sup> **These minimal structural accessibility recommendations for the fields- and courts-based programs** are necessary for program accessibility under Title II, regardless of whether the users are agents of the Town and School district, or whether they are sports organizations, non-resident teams, and individuals. Without implementation of these minimal structural improvements, the active sports programs at these shared facilities are not fulfilling minimal Title II program requirements:

- Wherever there are team benches, dugouts and clubhouses, these must adjoin an accessible route and include at least one clear ground space for integrated wheelchair seating. This should be provided at both home and away team dugouts;
- Wherever there are bleachers, spectator seating, or lawn benches anchored into the environment, these must be adjoining an accessible route and provide integrated wheeled mobility seating spaces;
- Wherever there are courts not adjoining an accessible route, install an accessible pathway leading to both sides of the court. If topological constraints make that infeasible, then provide the maximum accessible route that is feasible; and at least an accessible route to one side of the court.

For a complete list of fields and courts requiring these modest improvements, please refer to the Structural Accessibility section under Part A - Executive Summary. An index of findings by type of program, age-level and grade-level is included later in this Part B - Evaluation of Non-discriminatory Policies and practices in Programs, Services, and Activities. There are a number of school-based programs listed within the Department's portfolio that are held at locations that were not within the scope of this ADA Self-Evaluation report. A listing of facilities not within the scope of this evaluation is found at the end of Part A - Executive Summary.

7) The Department and Commission also occasionally review or approve streetscape projects, as requested, where they will impact Recreational facilities. **Recommendations about review of crosswalks, curb ramps, and sidewalks are based on the Town and Department's obligations to ensure that, wherever such alterations are made, they are compliant with the current accessibility standards**, which have been codified for the primary purpose of facilitating at least minimal program accessibility in cases where there are structural (physical) barriers. In the case of

<sup>22</sup> Note: School Department programs were not included within this 2013-2014 ADA Self Evaluation.

<sup>23</sup> online at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201301-504.pdf>

streetscape projects, the program accessibility mandate under Title II of the ADA ensures that individuals can approach and enter a municipal program via an accessible route provided to all accessible “site arrival points.” Here's that regulation:

*Site Arrival Points. At least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve.*<sup>24</sup>

This short paragraph includes some of the most essential program accessibility needs for the majority of facilities managed by the Department, with the guidance of the Commission, as it continues to develop and to maintain inclusive high-quality parks and recreation programs.

The necessity for the Department's programs and facilities to be approached and entered by accessible pedestrian routes connected to multiple modes of transportation – including the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, the many public transit stops within walking distance (within 300 feet) of these facilities, along and between Massachusetts Avenue, Broadway, Park Avenue, and Summer Street; and, from nearby pedestrian public rights of ways along neighborhood streets and sidewalks – is especially highlighted for individuals with disabilities and older residents, who share a disproportionate lack of access to more private motorized modes of travel.

Program accessibility considerations regarding public rights-of-ways (crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalks) exist alongside the basic architectural accessibility standards, which support program accessibility requirements with a code of minimal architectural standards. The facility surveys encountered approximately 18 facilities within the scope of this ADA Self-Evaluation report which had received relatively recent (within the past decade) streetscape improvements; yet, were not compliant with the architectural accessibility standards in effect at the time of construction.<sup>25</sup>

In order for the Department and also the Town to ensure effective stewardship of municipal assets, there needs to be coordinated management and oversight of such streets and roadway construction – from the preliminary phase of scoping the limits of the project, to the post-construction phase of surveying the completed construction and mitigating any issues found prior to the completion of the contract.

At this time, the Department is advised to oversee the planning of street and roadway projects adjacent to facilities with the following recommendations:

- When streetscape alterations are reviewed before the Department and Commission, ensure that the scope of the work includes at least one accessible route, upon completion, from the nearest public transit stop to the accessible entrance of site;

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<sup>24</sup> Department of Justice 2010 ADA Standards: Titles II and III. Scoping requirements: Accessible Routes for Site Arrival Points.

<sup>25</sup> This discussion is included in Structural Accessibility under Part A - Executive Summary.

- When working with the Town and DPW to prepare contracts for services by architects, engineers, and contractors involved in building and altering highways, streets, roads, sidewalks, other walkways, transportation stops, and curb ramps, consider including a provision specifically requiring compliance with Title II of the ADA, including compliance with the ADA 2010 Standards;
- Where completed work has resulted in non-complying elements – as those included within Part C - Evaluation of Facilities – the Department should include such corrective work not fully within the Department's jurisdiction as part of a series of Town budget requests over the next five to ten years;
- Where completed work has resulted in gaps of connection between site arrival points and the nearest public transit stop, off-street parking facilities, streets and sidewalks, any passenger drop-off and pick-up zones, and/or access links to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway and associated shared-use trails, the Department and Commission should develop facility-based capital improvement projects to mitigate those gaps;
- Streetscape projects should intersect with the necessary structural accessibility improvements at such facilities wherever feasible, so that interruptions in program service at those sites are as minimal as possible; and so that, when sites are re-opened following improvements, accessible streetscape infrastructure is provided right when the sites open again.

An additional recommendation relevant to site arrival points is provided based on the fact that, in at least one (school-related) off-street parking facility, the access aisles were being used as parking spots rather than as components of the accessible parking spaces, despite clear cross-hatch markings at the access aisles and signage in front of the spaces. This can have the effect of a program barrier, because access aisles are a structural accommodation that allows individuals using wheeled mobility devices to accommodate transfers between vehicle and pedestrian travel:

- Provide public information on website and in public brochures informing the general public about the need for access aisles to remain clear of vehicles. The Cambridge Commission inspires this recommendation for Persons with Disabilities' video Public Service Announcement, called ***Not even for a minute.***<sup>26</sup>

IHCD would like to note that the Department and Commission have already shown awareness and proactive stewardship in its Capital Project management; the recommendations mentioned above are supportive of the Department's demonstrated capacities to manage capital improvements projects to successful conclusions.

Where non-complying structural issues are found, they are detailed as part of each facility's structural accessibility recommendations provided in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities. As the

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<sup>26</sup> Link to this short video, ***Not even for a minute*** is at:  
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/programsforadults/ccpd.aspx>

Department continues to identify solutions to program accessibility barriers, these non-complying architectural elements must be corrected to comply with the 2010 ADA Standards.<sup>27</sup>

Programmatic accessibility problems are often solved most efficaciously through the design and renovation projects. The Department may also consider alternate methods to accomplish its Title II objectives, as long as integration is a primary consideration.

## **Indexed Analysis of Programs**

Program Accessibility Findings were analyzed, as a whole, by type of program (active, passive, summer), and by age and grade eligibility. These findings are based on the information produced within the Recreation Department's web-based resources, at the Town of Arlington's Website<sup>28</sup> and at the Recreation Department's information and registration website<sup>29</sup>. There are a number of program findings that are inconclusive, because similar programs are offered at facilities that were not included within the scope of this ADA Self-Evaluation report.

In the Program Analysis Index below, policies, information and communication practices and procedures are noted where there are questions and concerns about whether the information provided is sufficient to enable individuals with disabilities to confidently pursue the registration process.

The following programs, services and activities were analyzed, as a whole, within the Department's portfolio, and findings were indexed according to type of program, free or fee-based, and further indexed according to age and grade eligibility, as described in the Department's public information:

### Active Sports:

- Badminton;
- Baseball;
- Basketball;
- Biking;
- Boating;
- Fencing;
- Fishing;
- Fitness;
- Karate, Little Dragons, Ninjas;
- Indoor Skating;
- Soccer;

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<sup>27</sup> *Non-complying new construction and alterations constructed or altered after the effective date of the applicable ADA requirements and before March 15, 2012, shall, on or after March 15, 2012 be made accessible in accordance with the 2010 ADA Standards. See Guidance on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, published September 15, 2010, § 35.151(b)(4)(ii)(C) Path of travel--safe harbor; § 35.151(c) Accessibility standards for new construction and alterations; and § 36.403 Alterations: Path of Travel. Also see: § 36.406 Standards for New Construction and Alterations.*

<sup>28</sup> [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/index](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index)

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/>

- Swimming;
- Tennis;
- Volleyball.

Passive/Social Recreation:

- Arts;
- Community Gardens;
- Off-Leash Dog Program;
- Paved Walking Trails;
- Picnic Areas;
- Scenic Resources and Unique Environments<sup>30</sup>;
- Water Based Trails, Natural Surface;
- Wildlife Corridors.

Summer Programs, Children:

- Dallin Elementary School;
- Ottoson Middle School;
- Spy Pond Field;
- Summer Street Park;
- Summer Exploration Club (multiple locations).

Age-Based Programs:

- Toddlers;
- Ages 1 - 2;
- Ages 2 - 5;
- Ages 3 - 5;
- Ages 5 - 6, 7 - 9, 10 - 12, 10 – 16 (Tennis);
- Ages 5 - 7, 8 - 12 (Karate);
- Ages 7 and up, ages 12 and up (Fencing);
- Ages 6 - 14 (Soccer);
- Ages 7 - 14 (Soccer);
- Ages 9 - 14 (Soccer);
- Ages 18 - 99.

Grade-Based Programs:

- Pre-School & Kindergarten;
- Grades 1 - 2;
- Grades 3 - 4;
- Grades 5 - 6;
- Grades 7 - 9;
- Grades 8 - 10.

## **Active Sports**

### **Badminton**

Fee-based:

- Gym at Dallin Elementary School: Family Badminton, Doubles Courts, Badminton Club between September and December, January and June.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Dallin Elementary School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

### **Baseball**

Fee-based:

- Spy Pond Field: Summer Youth Program, Spy Ponder Baseball Clinic (ages 8 - 10). Spy Pond Field is home to the Arlington HS Varsity Team (town team).

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Spy Pond Field.

Field permits:

- Lussiano Field;
- Robbins Farm;
- Summer Street Park;
- W. A. Peirce Fields.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Basketball**

Fee-based:

- Ed Burns Arena (available for reservation between May and July);
- Club Rec (children are transported from Reservoir Beach to other locations, including the Dallin Elementary School);
- Arlington HS Red Gym: Summer Youth Swish Town Coed Basketball Clinic;
- Ottoson Middle School: Summer Youth Sports Programs.

Finding: Programs offered at Ed Burns Arena are currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facility, There is also not enough information to complete the review of this program because Arlington High School, Dallin Elementary School, and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

Free neighborhood basketball courts:

- Bishop Field;
- Buzzell Field;
- Crosby School / Tennis Court;
- Florence Avenue Park;
- Gibbs Gym;
- Lussiano Field;
- Magnolia Field;
- Parallel Park;
- Parmenter;
- Peirce School Park;
- Pheasant Avenue / Greeley Playground;
- Poet's Corner;
- Robbins Farm;
- Summer Street Park;
- W.A. Peirce Fields.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Biking**

Arlington's portion of the state-owned Minuteman Commuter Bikeway is three miles long and runs in an east-west direction largely parallel to Massachusetts Avenue. At least nine facilities operated by the Recreation Department are connected to the Bikeway, as noted in the Department's descriptions of facilities. Most of the connections to recreational facilities are through walkways; however, many non-compliant ramps and stairways obstruct the pedestrian access to and from the Bikeway.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of this program as well as the level of accessibility of all pedestrian routes along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway because the bikeway was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

### **Boating**

Fee-based:

- Spy Pond: Crew, Summer Learn to Row, Canoe and Kayak Rentals.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above. Additionally, public information does not provide reliable or adequate information about whether these programs are readily available to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. For example:

- a) The 'Crew, Summer Learn to Row' is advertised as "a great way to enjoy the outdoors as you condition yourself as well". There is no information alerting the public that the boat ramp at Spy Pond Field is currently inaccessible.<sup>31</sup>
- b) The Canoe and Kayak Rental program began in 2012. "While rental programs have been piloted at the pond in past years, this new program aims to make boating more *accessible* to the public by removing the need for reservations or online payment. In order to make this service available, the Recreation Department will purchase the boats and equipment outright, allowing the department more flexibility to tailor the program to the community's interests." Replace the word "accessible" with "available." Inform the public that the boat ramp is not currently accessible.<sup>32</sup>

### **Fencing**

Fee-based:

- Gibbs Gym: Lessons (toddlers - 3 years of age with parents, ages 7 and up, and ages 12 and up).

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Gibbs Gym.

### **Fishing**

Free:

- Menotomy Rocks Park: Fishing available at Hill's Pond.

Finding: Although this facility does not need to comply with requirements specific to accessible fishing piers and platforms, at least one useable pond viewing location is already available for fishing.

### **Fitness**

Free:

- Summer Street Park: Fitness Course
- Wellington Park: High Adventure Course

Finding: When viewed as a whole, the Summer Street Park Fitness course is partially accessible and usable; however, the High Adventure Course program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Wellington Park.

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<sup>31</sup> Retrieved from [https://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29009](https://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29009).

<sup>32</sup> Retrieved from [https://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=27950](https://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=27950).

Fitness, continued:

Fee-based:

- Gibbs Gym: Zumba for Adults, TRX® Boot Camp.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Gibbs Gym.

**Golf**

Fee-based

- Various out-of-town facilities: Menotomy Golf, grades 6 - 9. Registrants meet and return at Ed Burns Arena.
- Various out-of-town facilities: Arlington Annual Golf Tournament. Fundraising event for Department and Arena.
- Out-of-town facility: Summer Exploration Club, Sports Mania Week (day trip)

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs. At the least, the Department should provide information regarding accessible transportation options and the accessibility conditions at the out-of-town facilities, as part of standard operating procedure for these programs.

**Karate, Little Dragons, Ninjas**

Fee-based:

- Gym at Brackett Elementary School: Lessons (Preschool, ages 5 - 7, and ages 8 - 12).

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Brackett Elementary School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

**Skating, Indoor**

Fee-based and Municipal Programs:

- Ed Burns Arena

Finding: When viewed as a whole, these programs are currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Ed Burns Arena.

**Soccer**

Fee-based:

- Reservoir Beach: used as meeting point for Club Rec's special activities (including soccer) at other facilities;
- Bishop Field: Progress Soccer After-School Program (grades K - 5);

- Ed Burns Arena: rentals, Super Soccer for Toddlers, Super Soccer Stars, Kick & Play;
- Hill's Hill: Super Soccer Starts Kick It, Kick & Craft, Kick It Outdoors, and Super Soccer Stars, Mini League co-ed program (Pre-school & Kindergarten);
- Magnolia Field: Super Soccer Starts Summer Program (preschool & Age 5);
- McClennen Park: TetraBrazil Soccer Clinics, Full Day (ages 9 - 14);
- McClennen Park: TetraBrazil Soccer Clinics, Half Day (ages 6 - 14);
- Ottoson Middle School (Wood Gym): Progress Soccer After-School Program (grades K - 5), Summer Youth Super Sports Week Programs;
- Robbins Farm (Brackett Elementary School): Progress Soccer After-school Program (Grades K - 5);
- Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground (Stratton Elementary School): Sunday Super Soccer Stars Mini League Co-ed Program (ages 2 - 7), Progress Soccer After-School Program (grades K - 5);
- Thorndike Field: Super Soccer Stars Mini League co-ed program (pre-school & Kindergarten)

Finding: When viewed in part, the programs held at the following locations are currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at these facilities: Ed Burns Arena, Hill's Hill, Magnolia Field, McClennen Park, Robbins Farm, and Thorndike Park. Additionally, programs offered at Robbins Farm and Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground are referred in the Department's materials as being located at the nearby schools (Brackett Elementary School and Stratton Elementary School, respectively). Such information may be confusing for first-time registrants.

There is not enough information to complete the review of this program because Ottoson Middle School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

Field Permits (per information re: Arlington Soccer Club practice fields in 2014):

- Crosby School/Tennis Courts;
- Florence Avenue Park;
- Hill's Hill;
- Magnolia Field;
- McClennen Park;
- W.A. Peirce Fields;
- Thorndike Park.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

Field Permits (per Municipal program information, other sports groups):

- Bishop Field;
- Hurd / Reservoir Fields;
- Lussiano Field;
- Spy Pond Field;

- Thorndike Park.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Swimming**

Fee-based:

- Chlorinated and filtered outdoor natural swim area at Reservoir Beach: Swimming Lessons for Parent/Child (ages 2 -3), Water Adjustment (ages 4 – 5), and Level Swimming American Red Cross (ages 6 - 8) between June and August.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Reservoir Beach.

### **Tennis**

Fee-based:

- Wellington Park: Summer Adult Tennis Lessons (beginner - advanced);
- Crosby School/ Tennis Courts: Tennis lessons (ages 5 - 7, 7 - 9, 10 - 12, and 10 - 16).

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above. Although the Adult Tennis programs include a link to facility description, neither of the listed facilities is included within that online description of facilities.<sup>33</sup>

### **Volleyball**

Fee-based:

- Arlington HS Red Gym: Spy Ponder Volleyball (grades 6 - 12).

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of this program because Arlington High School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/facilities/>

## **Passive/Social Recreation**

### **Arts**

Fee-based:

- Gibbs Gym: After-School Kid Care Program;
- Dallin Elementary School: Club Rec, Full Day;
- Spy Pond Park: "Friends of Spy Pond Park" child arts programs.

Finding: When viewed in part, the programs held at Gibbs Gym and Spy Pond Park are currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at these facilities. There is also not enough information to complete the review of this program because Dallin Elementary School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed. Additionally, information regarding school bus transportation for Club Rec (to and from the Reservoir Beach) in Winter and Spring/Summer 2014 brochures did not include information about accessible transportation options.

### **Community Gardens**

Fee-based:

- Magnolia Field;
- Robbins Farm.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above. The Department's applications as well as information about rules and regulations<sup>34</sup> need to specify that, at this time, these programs are currently not accessible to individuals living with mobility disabilities.

Free:

- Hurd / Reservoir Trail: Wildlife Habitat Gardens;<sup>35</sup>
- Spy Pond and Hurd Field: Rain Gardens.<sup>36</sup>

Finding: This program was intended to be accessible; however, at this time, both Wildlife Habitat and Rain Gardens are currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

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<sup>34</sup> [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/public\\_documents/arlingtonma\\_recreation/communitygardens/gardenrulesregs.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/public_documents/arlingtonma_recreation/communitygardens/gardenrulesregs.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Arlington Reservoir Committee, "Wildlife Habitat Garden,"  
[http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/Habitat\\_Garden.htm](http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/Habitat_Garden.htm)

<sup>36</sup> Arlington Master Plan Working Paper Series: Natural Resources and Open Space, 7-8.  
[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Planning/masterplan/workingpapers/NaturalResWkgPaper0516.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Planning/masterplan/workingpapers/NaturalResWkgPaper0516.pdf)

### **Off-Leash Dog Program**<sup>37</sup>

Free:

- Buzzell Field;
- Cutter School / Reinhart Park;
- Hill's Hill;
- Hurd / Reservoir Fields;
- Menotomy Rocks Park;
- McClennen Park;
- Poet's Corner;
- Reservoir Beach;
- Robbins Farm;
- Spy Pond Field;
- Spy Pond Park;
- Summer Street Park;
- Thorndike OLRA;
- Wellington Park.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural and policy-based barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Paved Walking Trails** (added since 2004)

Free:

- Hurd/Reservoir Trail;
- McClennen Park;
- Menotomy Rocks Park;
- Robbins Farm;
- Spy Pond Field: SE field paved walking path;
- Spy Pond Park: shoreline trail between North and South beaches;
- Thorndike Park;
- Waldo Park.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible, mainly due to lack of connection between walking trails and other facility program areas, elements, and amenities at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Picnic Areas**

Free:

- Most facilities.

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<sup>37</sup> Green Dog proposed locations, 2007  
[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_WebDocs/greendogpilot2007.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_WebDocs/greendogpilot2007.pdf)

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at most facilities.

Fee-based:

- Most facilities:

Finding: A 'Picnic Area Request' form must be filled out for birthday parties and small gatherings under 100 people. The Department's application form needs to specify that, at this time, this program is currently not accessible to individuals living with mobility disabilities.

### **Scenic Resources and Unique Environments**<sup>38</sup>

Free:

- Buzzell Field: link to Bikeway scenic assets;
- Hill's Hill: link to Bikeway scenic assets;
- Hurd / Reservoir Fields: Mill Brook, Reservoir, Wetlands, link to Bikeway;
- Menotomy Rocks Park: glacial rock formations and woodlands;
- Reservoir Trail: Mill Brook, Reservoir, Wetlands;
- Robbins Farm: Boston Skyline Viewing Oval;
- Spy Pond Park: Walking paths, Wetlands, link to Bikeway;
- Summer Street Park: link to Bikeway scenic assets.

Finding: Although the programs offered in the facilities mentioned above do not currently need to comply with enforceable requirements for accessible outdoor areas, awareness of standards for accessible outdoor trails is in evidence in the additional trails added within the past decade at the Menotomy Rocks Park, Reservoir Trail, and Spy Pond Park.

### **Water Based Trails, Natural Surface**

Free:

- McClennen Park;
- Menotomy Rocks Park;
- Reservoir: shoreline trail;
- Spy Pond Park: North;
- Spy Pond Park: South.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

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<sup>38</sup> from Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2007 - 2012, pp. 66 - 68

[http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_BComm/openspace/OSPlans/2007\\_2014/OSR\\_P\\_2007\\_3.pdf](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_BComm/openspace/OSPlans/2007_2014/OSR_P_2007_3.pdf)

Wetlands info from Arlington Master Plan Working Paper Series: Natural Resources and Open Space, 7-7:

[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Planning/masterplan/workingpapers/NaturalResWkg\\_Paper0516.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Planning/masterplan/workingpapers/NaturalResWkg_Paper0516.pdf)

### **Wildlife Corridors**<sup>39</sup>

Free:

- Linkages to Minuteman Bikeway;
- Spy Pond Park;
- McClennen Park;
- Reservoir.

Finding: Although the Town's wildlife programs do not currently need to comply with enforceable requirements for accessible outdoor areas, awareness of standards for accessible outdoor areas is in evidence and increasing.

### **Summer Programs**

Fee-Based:

- Dallin Elementary School: Club Rec Full Day, Kids Corner (ages 3 - 5);
- Ottoson Middle School: Super Sports;
- Spy Pond Field: Spy Ponder Baseball Clinic (ages 8 - 10);
- Summer Street Park (multi-purpose field): Thundercat Sports (ages 2 - 12);
- Multiple Locations (including high adventure course at Wellington Park, swimming pool at Reservoir Beach): Summer Exploration Club (ages 10 - 14).

Finding: When viewed in part, the programs offered at Spy Pond Field, Summer Street Park, and Reservoir Beach are currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at these facilities. Additionally, information regarding school bus transportation for Club Rec (to and from the Reservoir Beach) in Winter and Spring/Summer 2014 brochures did not include information about accessible transportation options.

There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Dallin Elementary School and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

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<sup>39</sup> from Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2007 - 2012, p. 64  
[http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_BComm/openspace/OSPlans/2007\\_2014/OSR\\_P\\_2007\\_3.pdf](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_BComm/openspace/OSPlans/2007_2014/OSR_P_2007_3.pdf)

## **Age-Based Programs**

### **Toddler Programs**

Fee-Based:

- Ed Burns Arena: Super Soccer for Toddlers;
- Gibbs Gym: Spring Youth Programs (toddler basic gymnastics course).

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above. Additionally, policy regarding the Spring Youth Programs at Gibbs Gym includes the following language in the Fantastic Gymnastics program brochure: "Children should be good walkers." This basic gymnastics course description is discriminatory because application to this program is not based on any type of selective audition process, and children who may never be "good walkers" should not be excluded from this public program.

### **Ages 1 – 2**

Fee-Based:

- Ed Burns Arena: Soccer Programs (Super Soccer, Kick and Play).

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Ed Burns Arena.

### **Ages 2 – 5**

Fee-Based:

- Hill's Hill: Soccer Programs (Super Soccer Stars, Mini-League).

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Hill's Hill.

### **Ages 3 – 5**

Fee-Based:

- Dallin Elementary School: Kids Corner (activities take place outdoors on playground and extensive indoor areas);
- Gibbs Gym: gymnastics instruction.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of the Kids Corner programs because Dallin Elementary School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed. Additionally, when viewed as a whole, the Gymnastics program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural and policy-based barriers at Gibbs Gym.

**Ages 5 - 6, 7 - 9, 10 - 12, 10 – 16 (Tennis)**

Fee-Based:

- Crosby School / Tennis Courts: Tennis lessons during the summer (beginner - advanced).

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program cannot currently be considered accessible because there are no accessible routes to approach and enter facility from nearby public transit stops, streets, and sidewalks along Oxford Street; and no accessible points of entry from streets and sidewalks along Winter Street (although sidewalks have just been reconstructed); and there are no accessible parking spaces currently available to facility users.

**Ages 5 - 7, 8 - 12 (Karate)**

Fee-Based:

- Brackett Elementary School: Karate, Little Ninjas.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of this program because Brackett Elementary School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

**Ages 7 and up, Ages 12 and up (Fencing)**

Fee-Based:

- Gibbs Gym: Fencing instruction.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Gibbs Gym.

**Ages 6 - 14 SOCCER**

Fee-Based:

- McClennen Park: TetraBrazil Soccer Clinic, Half Day

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at McClennen Park.

**Ages 7 - 14 SOCCER**

Fee-Based:

- W.A. Peirce Field: Soccer PROformance Soccer Academy

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at W.A. Peirce Field.

### **Ages 9 - 14 SOCCER**

- McClennen Park: TetraBrazil Soccer Clinic, Full Day

Finding: When viewed as a whole, this program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at McClennen Park.

### **Ages 18 - 99**

- Reservoir Beach: Beach tags;
- Gibbs Gym: Fencing, Zumba for Adults;
- Thorndike Park (dog park): Fit Doggie and Me;
- Wellington Park (tennis courts): Summer Adult Tennis Programs.

Finding: The following programs are not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

## **By Grade Program Findings**

### **Preschool & Kindergarten:**

Fee-based:

- Brackett School Gymnasium: Karate, Little Dragons;
- Gibbs Gym: Arlington Kid Care Program;
- Dallin Elementary School: Club Rec Full Day;
- Ottoson Middle School: Viking Summer Camps, Viking Multi-Sports.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of this program because Brackett Elementary School, Dallin Elementary School, and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed. When viewed in part, Kid Care Program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Gibbs Gym. Additionally, the Recreation Department mentions a "Fun Day" program for preschool as part of expansion of the Kid Care program, in the description for the Enterprise Fund; however, this program description was not found in the web-based or printed brochures for Spring/Summer 2014.

### **Arlington School Kids Care Grades K-5**

Fee-based:

Arlington Kid Care is licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care, run by the Recreation Department as an extended-day program for children in Grades K – 5, and includes students from each of the seven elementary schools, Saint Agnes and the Covenant School. These programs are located at Gibbs Gym.

As described in the Department's brochure, the After-School Kid Care Program for the 2014-2015 School year provides time for playing sports and games, music and drama, foreign language, weekly science experiments, arts and crafts, a quiet space for homework and a caring staff. Students will also have electives to choose from throughout the year. Students must register for the entire year.

Finding: When viewed as a whole, Kid Care Program is currently not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Gibbs Gym. Additionally, transportation is provided for students to the program from the individual schools; however, information regarding accessible transportation availability is not listed.

### **Grades 1 - 2:**

Fee-based:

- Arlington HS Red Gym: Arlington Girls Basketball Clinic;
- Gibbs Gym: Arlington Kids Care;
- Dallin Elementary School: Club Rec, After Care;
- Hill's Hill (multi-purpose field): SHINE program (grades 1 - 7);
- McClennen Park: Arlington Ponders Mini Football Program;

- Ottoson Middle School: Viking Summer Camps, Super Sports.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Arlington High School, Dallin Elementary School, and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed. When viewed in part, the Kids Care, SHINE, and Football programs are not programmatically accessible due to architectural and policy-based barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Grades 3-4**

Fee-based:

- Arlington HS Red Gym: Arlington Girls Basketball Clinic, Swish Town basketball Clinic (ages 2 - 9);
- Gibbs Gym: Arlington Kids Care Program;
- Dallin Elementary School: Club Rec, After Care, HRC Summer Experience;
- Hill's Hill (multi-purpose field): Super Soccer Starts SHINE program (Grades 1 - 7);
- Ottoson Middle School (Upper Gym): Viking Summer Camps;
- Ottoson Middle School (Wood Gym): Super Sports.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Arlington High School, Dallin Elementary School, and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed. When viewed in part, the Kids Care and SHINE programs are not programmatically accessible due to architectural and policy-based barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Grades 5-6**

Fee-based:

- Arlington HS Red Gym: Arlington Girls Basketball Clinic, Swish Town basketball Clinic (Ages 2 - 9);
- Gibbs Gym: Arlington Kid Care Program;
- Dallin Elementary School: Club Rec, After Care, HRC Summer Experience;
- Hill's Hill (multi-purpose field): Super Soccer Starts SHINE program (Grades 1 - 7);
- Ottoson Middle School (Upper Gym): Viking Summer Camps;
- Ottoson Middle School (Wood Gym): Super Sports.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Arlington High School, Dallin Elementary School, and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed. When viewed in part, the Kids Care and SHINE programs are not programmatically accessible due to architectural and policy-based barriers at the facilities mentioned above.

### **Grades 7 - 9**

Fee-based:

- Arlington HS Red Gym: Arlington Girls Basketball Clinic, Spy Ponder Volleyball;
- Dallin Elementary School: Counselor In Training (CIT);
- Hill's Hill (multi-purpose field): SHINE program (grades 1 - 7);
- Ed Burns Arena (meeting place): Menotomy Golf.
- Ottoson Middle School (Upper Gym): Viking Summer Camps.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Arlington High School, Dallin Elementary School, and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed, and out of town golf facilities were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed

When viewed in part, the SHINE programs are not programmatically accessible due to architectural and policy-based barriers at Hill's Hill.

### **Grades 8 - 10**

Fee-based:

- Arlington HS Red Gym: Arlington Girls Basketball Clinic, Spy Ponder Volleyball, Swish Town Basketball Clinic (ages 2 - 9);
- Dallin Elementary School: Counselor In Training (CIT);
- Ed Burns Arena (meeting place): Menotomy Golf.
- Spy Pond Park: Crew, Summer Learn To Row;
- Ottoson Middle School (Upper Gym): Viking Summer Camps.

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of these programs because Arlington High School, Dallin Elementary School, and Ottoson Middle School were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed, and out of town golf facilities were not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed.

When viewed in part, the Crew, Summer Learn To Row program is not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Spy Pond Park.

### **Grades 8 - 10**

Fee-based:

- Spy Pond: Arlington-Belmont Crew Summer Learn To Row;
- Arlington HS Red Gym: Arlington Girls Basketball Clinic, Spy Ponder Volleyball;

Finding: There is not enough information to complete the review of the Volleyball program because Arlington High School was not included by the Recreation Department in the list of facilities to be assessed. When viewed in part, the Crew, Summer Learn to Row program is not programmatically accessible due to architectural barriers at Spy Pond Park.

## Resource List

- 1) January 25, 2013: (Press Release) ("Dear Colleague" Letter) (January 25, 2013) from Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Seth Galanter, addressing equal access to extracurricular athletics for students with disabilities. The Dear Colleague letter provides an overview of the obligations of public elementary and secondary schools under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), and the Department's Section 504 regulations; cautions against making decisions based on presumptions and stereotypes; details the specific Section 504 regulations that require students with disabilities to have an equal opportunity for participation in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities; and discusses the provision of separate or different athletic opportunities.
- 2) See: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201301-504.pdf>
- 3) American Foundation for the Blind, Recreation and Leisure for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired: <http://www.visionaware.org/info/everyday-living/recreation-and-leisure/12>
- 4) CDC Report: Aerobic Inactivity Linked to Increased Incidence of Chronic Disease in Adults with Disabilities, May 2014: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p0506-disability-activity.html>
- 5) Benefits and Barriers To Fitness For Children With Disabilities:  
<http://www.nchpad.org/173/1308/Benefits~and~Barriers~To~Fitness~For~Children~With~Disabilities>

## **PART C – Evaluation of Facilities**

### **Introduction**

This ADA Self-Evaluation report includes a summary of architectural barriers and proposed barrier removal solutions for 33 Town-owned and Department-operated facilities:<sup>1</sup>

- Recreation Department Office
- Bishop Field
- Buck Field
- Buzzell Field
- Crosby School / Tennis Courts
- Cutter School Park
- Ed Burns Arena
- Florence Avenue Park
- Gibbs Gym
- Hill's Hill
- Hurd / Reservoir
- Locke School Playground
- Lussiano Field
- Magnolia Field
- McClennen Park
- Menotomy Rocks Park
- Ottoson Field / Crusher Lot
- Parallel Park
- Parmenter
- Peirce School Park
- Pheasant Avenue / Greeley Playground
- Poet's Corner
- Reservoir Beach
- Robbins Farm
- Scannell Field
- Sports Complex- Site Arrival Points<sup>2</sup>
- Spy Pond Field & Tennis Courts
- Spy Pond Park
- Summer Street Park
- Thorndike Park
- W.A. Peirce Fields
- Waldo Park
- Wellington Park

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<sup>1</sup> The Town of Arlington has provided IHCD with the list of facilities to be assessed. IHCD is not contractually responsible for any additional facilities that are not included in the list above.

<sup>2</sup> The Sports Complex - Site Arrival Points report is a summary of combined exterior architectural barriers and proposed barrier removal solutions related to Buck Field, Ed Burns Arena, Hill's Hill and Summer Street Park.

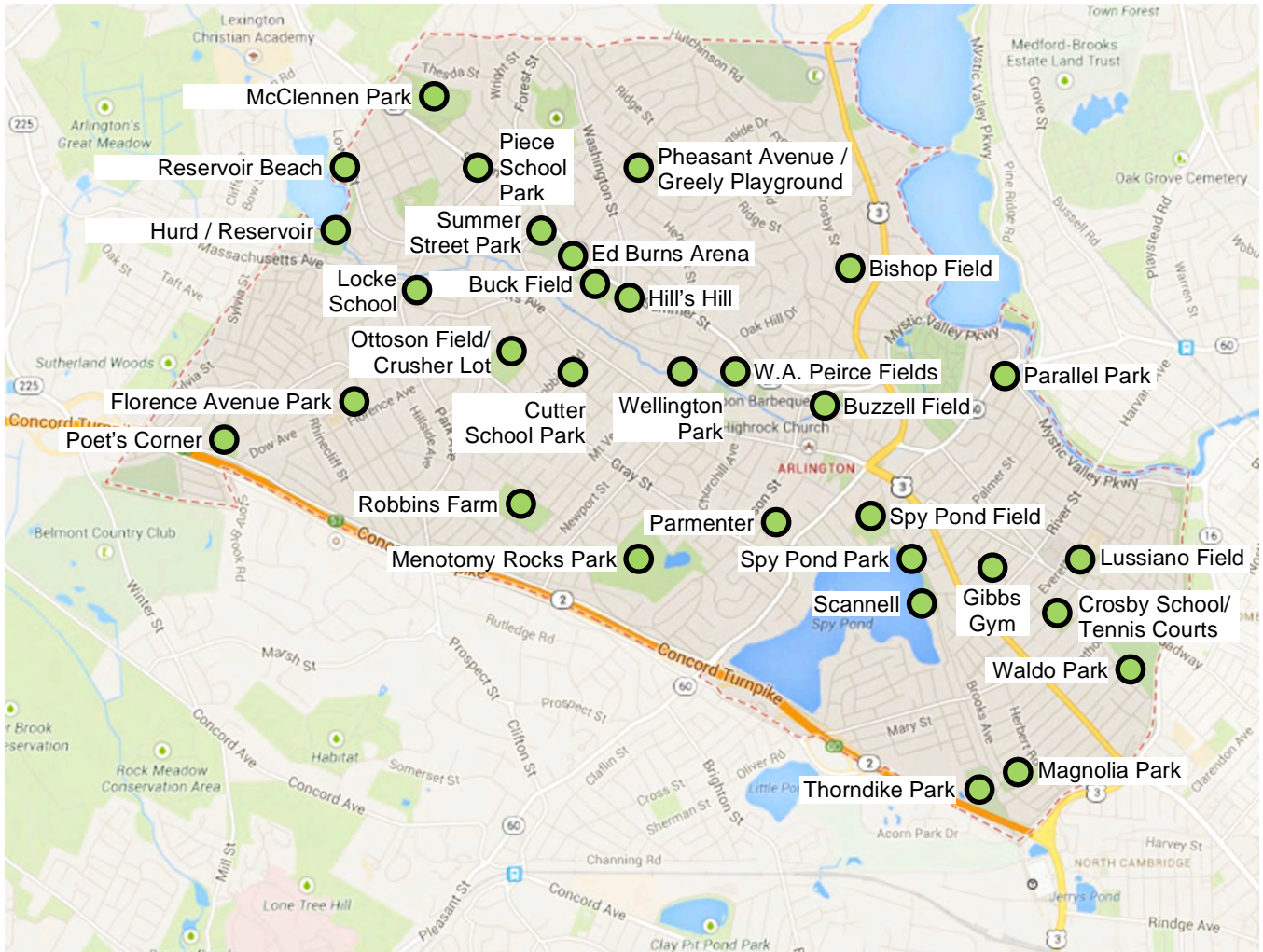


Figure 1 – Location of 32 facilities assessed as part of this ADA Self-Evaluation report.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The Recreation Department Office is located at the Ed Burns Arena



## Recreation Department Office

The **Recreation Department Office** is located adjacent to the Ed Burns Arena, and is served by sidewalks and parking offered to the facilities within the Sports Complex.

### **Location:**

422 Summer Street, Sports Complex

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Lobby / reception Area

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Walk-in registrations
- Information about programs



Photo 1

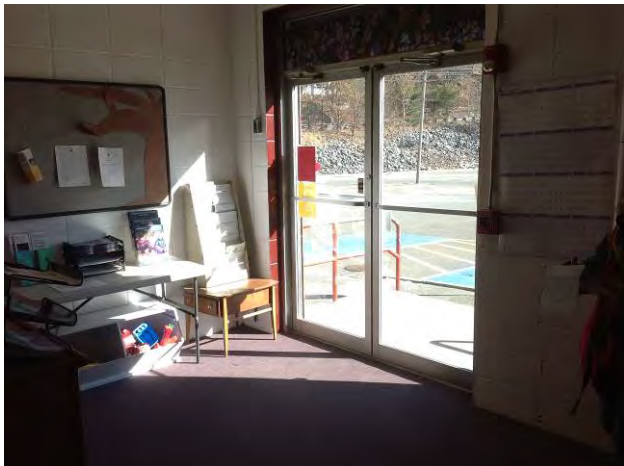


Photo 2

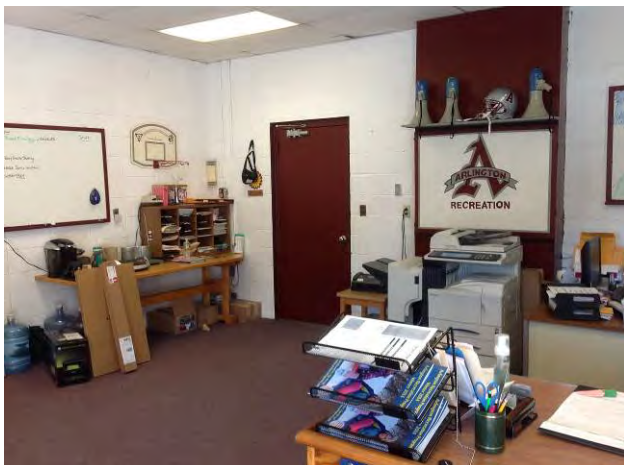


Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Please see Sports Complex, Site Arrival Survey in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities.

#### **Entrance**

Although the ramp that leads to the office entrance has compliant slopes, it is missing the required edge protection on one side and it does not adjoin an accessible route – Please see Sports Complex, Site Arrival Survey in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for information regarding Crosswalk, Curb Ramps, and Sidewalks. Additionally, two vending machines are located adjacent to the office entrance. Such appliances are inaccessible because they are located on a platform and not on an accessible route and controls are out of reach ranges. (Photo 1)

### Access within Building

#### **Door**

Within the public area of the office, the door that leads directly to the Ed Burns Arena has non-compliant hardware.

#### **Work Surface**

Near the front entrance of the office, a desk with brochures and sign-in information does not have the required clear floor space for those using wheeled mobility devices.

#### **Signage**

Very little signage is provided within the public area of the office and not all permanent rooms and spaces are properly identified with ADA-compliant signs.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Entrance**

Install a bottom railing no higher than 4" above the ground along the open side of the ramp.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Ramps.*

#### Access within Building

##### **Door**

Replace the door knob with lever hardware.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Doors, Doorways, and Gates.*

##### **Work Surface**

Remove storage from underneath the desk and ensure that it is clear of obstructions at all times.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Built-In Elements for Work Surfaces.*

##### **Signage**

At a minimum, install two signs in the office: one alongside the door that leads directly to the Ed Burns Arena and one alongside the door opening to the Director's office.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements and Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*



## **Bishop Field**

**Bishop Field** is a neighborhood park located at the Bishop Elementary School on Stowecroft Road. This facility includes two playgrounds (one with slides and swings, the other with several unusual features, including octagonal and spider-web climbing structures, group swings, and an oversized xylophone), one basketball court, and one hardtop area for four-square adjacent to the school. On the north side, this facility offers a large grassy field with baseball/little league field and a soccer field.

**Location:**

25 Columbia Road, Bishop Elementary School

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 1995 – Installation of playground

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Two Playgrounds (wood fiber)
- Basketball Court
- Softball/Little League Field
- Soccer Field

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. (or 10a.m with special permit)

- School Activities
- Available for playing field permits
- Off-street parking provided adjacent to the Bishop Elementary School after 3pm.



Photo 1

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### ***Crosswalks and Curb Ramps***

At the intersection of Columbia and Stowcroft Roads, four highly visible pedestrian crosswalks lead to the Bishop Elementary School as well the points of entry to this facility. None of the sidewalks at the end of these crosswalks provide the required curb ramps. (Photo1)

#### ***Sidewalks***

Although the sidewalks along Columbia Road are mostly accessible, the sidewalk along Stowcroft Road is in poor condition. Not only are a few sections near trees extremely deteriorated but also the sidewalk has excessive cross slopes and unprotected edge at certain sections of the fence. (Photos 2 and 3)

All of the issues described above negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Mystic Street @ Columbia Road.



Photo 2



Photo 3



*Photo 4*

### ***Parking***

In the parking lot off of Stowecroft Road, one parking space designated as accessible is provided adjacent to this facility. Not only is the required parking sign missing but also the parking space is slightly steep. (Photo 4)

### ***Points of Entry***

There are two points of entry in this facility along Stowecroft Road: one at the parking lot and one near the baseball/little league and soccer fields. The point of entry at the parking lot has an unprotected edge near the playground that is hazardous to those using wheeled mobility devices or who may be unobservant. (Photo 5)

Additionally, the stairway leading to the baseball/little league and soccer fields does not have compliant surfaces and railings. Further, this inaccessible point of entry does not offer an ADA-compliant sign directing the public to the accessible point of entry 150 feet away. (Photo 6)



*Photo 5*



*Photo 6*



Photo 7

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Field Playing Areas***

Although an asphalt walkway is provided between the point of entry at the parking lot and one playground and the basketball court, no accessible route is provided between either point of entry and the softball/little league and soccer fields. (Photo 7)

### ***Team Seating Areas***

No accessible route is provided to either team seating areas adjacent to the softball/little league field. Although there is enough space for accessible integrated wheelchair seating locations within each dugout, they are not identified by any markings. (Photo 7)



Photo 8

### ***Play Areas***

Two playgrounds are provided in this facility: one on the East side of the basketball court and adjacent to the parking lot, the other on the West side of the basketball court. (Photos 8 and 9)

Although the wood fiber surface is currently well maintained and has compliant slopes, no accessible route is provided to the playground on the East side of the basketball court. (Photo 8)



Photo 9



Photo 10

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Tables***

Three picnic tables are provided near both playgrounds: one near the parking lot, the other near the playground on the West side of the basketball court. None are accessible or are provided on accessible route. (Photo 10)

### ***Benches***

Two benches are provided in shady areas along the playground on the West side of the basketball court. Neither is accessible because they do not adjoin an accessible route.



Photo 11

### ***Portable Toilet***

One portable toilet room is designated as accessible and is located near the point of entry at the parking lot. However, this amenity is not accessible because it does not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 11)

### ***Bulletin Board***

A bulletin board is provided at the edge of the grassy field; however, it is not located within an accessible route. (Photo 12)



Photo 12

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Install curb ramps at the intersection of Columbia and Stowecroft Roads (total of 4 curb ramps).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair the sidewalk along Stowecroft Road (about 300 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Parking**

Install two parking signs between 5 feet and 8 feet above the ground: one for accessible parking space and one for van-designated space. Whenever the entire parking lot is paved, consider re-grading the accessible parking space so that slopes are not greater than 2% in any direction.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: General Site and Building Elements for Parking.*

##### **Points of Entry**

Re-grade the eroded grassy area along the asphalt walkway along the parking lot (about 10 feet).

At the stairway leading to the baseball/little league and soccer fields, install an ADA-compliant sign directing the public to the accessible point of entry.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Stairways and Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### **Field Playing Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and the softball/little league and soccer fields (about 300 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Team Seating Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the softball/little league field. The accessible route to the dugout can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Play Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between points of entry and the playground on the East side of the basketball court. The accessible route to this playground can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the softball/little league and soccer fields.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

## **Access to Elements**

### **Tables**

Replace the picnic table between the playgrounds with an ADA-compliant amenity

and extend the asphalt walkway to it (about 30 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Benches**

Relocate one of the benches to an accessible area or install an accessible walkway to it (about 30 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 1 bench).

### **Portable Toilet**

Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkway or extend the asphalt walkway to it (about 2 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Bulletin Board**

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider extending the asphalt walkway to the bulletin board. The accessible route to this amenity can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the benches.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*



### **Bishop Field ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Crosswalks and Curb Ramps:** Install curb ramps at the intersection of Columbia and Stowcroft Roads.
- 2 Sidewalks:** Repair the sidewalk along Stowcroft Road.
- 3 Parking:** Install two parking signs between 5 feet and 8 feet above the ground: one for accessible parking space and one for van-designated space.
- 4 Points of Entry:** Re-grade the eroded grassy area along the asphalt walkway along the parking lot. At the stairway leading to the baseball/little league and soccer fields, install an ADA-compliant sign directing the public to the accessible point of entry.
- 5 Field Playing Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and the softball/little league and soccer fields.
- 6 Team Seating Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the softball/little league field. The accessible route to the dugout can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.
- 7 Play Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between points of entry and the playground on the East side of the basketball court. The accessible route to this playground can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the softball/little league and soccer fields.
- 8 Tables:** Replace the picnic table with an ADA-compliant amenity and extend the asphalt walkway to it.
- 9 Benches:** Relocate one of the benches to an accessible area or install an accessible walkway to it.
- 1 Portable Toilet:** Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkway or extend the asphalt walkway to it.
- 1 Bulletin Board:** Consider extending the asphalt walkway to the bulletin board.



## **Buck Field**

Buck Field is an active team sports field within the Sports Complex and also includes a large playground facility, and a paved picnic area. The well-appointed field includes lighting, gated clubhouse and dugout areas. Field is separated from spectator and playground areas with fencing.

The playground features an exciting and accessible composite play structure. There is also a swingset and a lovely paved picnic area with tables.

There are two main capital project needs at Buck Field: 1. To provide accessible entry points to all facility areas; and, 2. To create and maintain at least one continuous accessible route that connects all exterior facility areas<sup>6</sup> to, and through, all interior primary function areas, elements and amenities.<sup>7</sup>

Amenities include drinking fountains, portable toilet, if installed.

<sup>6</sup>At this facility, exterior primary function areas include: accessible parking, batting practice area, and the spectator seating area near the batting practice area.

<sup>7</sup>At this facility, interior primary function areas include team meeting/seating places. Elements include interior gates, team benches, clubhouse. Amenities include drinking fountains, portable toilet, if installed.

### **Location:**

422 Summer Street, Sports Complex

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2010: Playground Accessibility Renovations<sup>8</sup>
- 2013: dugout area, signage, scoreboard, landscaping, outfield netting. New team benches.<sup>9</sup>

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Parking
- Batting Practice area
- Softball/little league field
- Playground
- Seating areas

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits
- Team practices
- Spectator games
- Separate Batting Practice Area
- Playground
- Access to bike path
- Part of Arlington Sports Center Complex

<sup>8</sup> Per 2010 Town Annual Report.  
[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2010/Recreation.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2010/Recreation.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Per Park and Recreation Commission Minutes, 4/9/13.  
[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_BComm/parkrec/ArlingtonMA\\_RecMin/2013/April%209,%202013%20Minutes](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_BComm/parkrec/ArlingtonMA_RecMin/2013/April%209,%202013%20Minutes)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

Sports Complex crosswalk areas at Summer St. & Ryder intersection are not connected to an accessible path of travel leading to Buck Field entrance. (Photo 1)

Recommendation: See Sports Center Complex, Site Arrival Survey, Part C.

#### ***Sidewalks***

Sidewalks adjoining Buck Field facility areas contain many obstructions, uneven and warped surface areas, are made of dissimilar materials causing vertical level changes, and do not provide accessible path of travel to any facility areas, elements and amenities along the exterior approach and entrance routes. (Photo 2)

There needs to be at least 1 accessible path of travel providing a connection between the Sports Complex facilities and all exterior areas, elements and amenities, including accessible entrances, accessible parking spaces, seating amenities, informational sign installations, and trash receptacle.

#### ***Off-street Parking Space***

Buck Field/Hill's Hill shares the parking facilities of the Sports Complex with the Ed Burns Arena.

There should be at least one van-accessible spaces designated close to the Buck Field/Hill's Hill entrance.



Photo 4

### ***Point of Entry***

There are two main at-grade entry points to Buck Field facility areas. These are: Main entrance with sign and Team Dugout/Clubhouse area. There is also a point of entry to the gated Batting practice area

The main entry is not along an accessible route because the route is not firm, stable, level or slip-free. (Photo 4)

Team Dugout/clubhouse ground surface is a mixture of gravel and hardtop with no paved accessible route available at this time. (Photo 6)



Photo 5

The Batting Practice area approach and entrance is not firm, level or slip free; and it is near old crumbling staircase infrastructure, which provides an additional safety hazard. (Photo 5)

### ***Gates***

Gates at the Team Dugout area, practice field and Batting Practice area are not adjoining accessible routes. Gates also lack a smooth surface on the push side (which is a newer (2010) requirement). (Photo 6)

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Circulation***

There is not at least one accessible route to connect Buck Fields and Hill's Hill facility to the accessible parking spaces, public streets and sidewalks and public transit nearby. These facilities are also not connected via at least one accessible route to the other programs, facilities and public amenities within the Sports Complex. (Photo 4)

There is not at least one accessible route linking all program areas offered at Buck Field together and to the at-grade entrance. (Photos 5 and 6)



Photo 6



Photo 7

### ***Walkways***

The main interior walkway for Buck Field leads from the entrance to the two facilities- Buck Field and Hill's Hill- and leads to the playground and picnic area between these facilities.

Walkway surface is basically well maintained; however, the entrance portion is not well maintained. (Photo 7)

### ***Field***

Practice fields within fence have a well graded warning strip; however, there is no connection between fields and at least one accessible walkway within perimeter of facility. (Photo 8)



Photo 8

### ***Team Seating***

Alterations were completed without provision of an accessible route to and within the clubhouse and team seating areas. (See Photo 6)



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11

### ***Play areas - Use Zone***

There are two play areas: a swingset area and the large play component area. These are separated by different ground surface materials, which create an unblended and uneven transition between the areas. In the swingset area, the loose fill ground surface has excessive cross slopes leading to, and around, the swingsets.

At the large play component area, the unitary ground surface does not have consistent levels and there are excessive cross slopes between and at the entry and exit points of accessible play components. (Photos 9, 10)

At least one accessible route is not provided within site perimeter to all entry/exit points of play areas, including swingsets and playground; and there is no accessible route provided to all entry/exit points of the ground play structures and elements within the play areas.

### ***Play areas- Elements***

The large accessible composite play structure provides an accessible elevated route to over 90% of the elevated play components and provides many types of exciting and integrated play opportunities along the way. When the accessible route issues are connected between and within these two play areas (i.e., cross slopes not exceeding 2.08%), this playground will indeed be a model of an exciting and integrative program. (Photo 11)



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14

## Access to Elements

### ***Bleachers***

Two bleacher areas are provided; neither is along an accessible route. The bleachers outside the fence, near the batting practice area and team meeting and seating area, are set on a bed of gravel. (Photo 12)

The bleacher area within the perimeter of site, near another field gate, requires a level-graded, firm accessible route to provide circulation and clear seating location for integrated wheelchair seating. Mitigation of accessible route and ground surface issues at both bleacher areas can be combined with mitigation of lack of accessible route to gated points of entry to batting practice and team areas (outside site fence) and fields (inside perimeter of site). When alterations are next planned, bleachers can also be upgraded by installing accessible bleachers with integrated seating.

### ***Tables***

A picnic area with two tables is provided at the front of the playground area and there is a picnic table at the back of the playground area as well, near the fence. There is also a picnic table located outside the fence near the team clubhouse, which clutters an already narrow and excessive sloped route from adjacent parking spaces to facility entrance. There are no accessible tables provided; however, there is adequate level ground space for accessible seating alongside the tables in the front. (Photo 15)



Photo 15



Photo 16

### ***Tables [continued]***

The transition between the poured unitary ground surface at picnic and play areas and the gravel and dirt path adjoining these areas is not blended to level and has over 1/2 inch level changes. At this point, which also separates Buck Field from Hill's Hill site, there are also excessive cross slopes along the unitary surface route.

### ***Benches***

There are four benches provided along the interior walkway separating Buck Field and Hill's Hill and leading into the play and picnic areas. These benches have backrests and armrests. There is adequate clear ground space with level cross slopes for integrated wheelchair seating locations near one bench.

### ***Access to Amenities***

#### ***Drinking Fountain***

A drinking fountain is located at the field gate. At the time of survey, this fountain was not operable. Fountain is not installed along a level, firm accessible route or oriented for accessible forward approach. (Photo 17)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Parking & Sidewalks - Accessible Route to Facility Areas**

Regrade parking spaces adjoining facility to provide at least one van-accessible space with access aisle near facility entrance.

Provide accessible route from accessible space to: facility entrance (about 75 feet), team gate entrance (about 45 feet), and bleacher and batting practice area outside fence (about 75 further from clubhouse gate entry point).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Scoping Requirements for Parking Spaces and Accessible Routes for Site Arrival Points and Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes within a Site.*

#### Access to Facility Areas and Elements

##### **Field Playing Areas, Accessible Route**

Install accessible route that connects to the boundary of all areas of sports activity, This accessible route can connect to all team seating and meeting areas, both bleacher areas, drinking fountain, and to interior walkway leading between at-grade facility entrance and picnic and playground areas.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes within a Site.*

##### **Team Seating**

Install an accessible route that connects to all team seating areas. This route can connect to the boundary of all areas of sports activity (fields) in addition to both bleacher areas, drinking fountain, and to interior walkway leading between at-grade facility entrance and picnic and playground areas.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes within a Site*

##### **Play Areas, Accessible Route**

Install or maintain an accessible route at, between and around all entry points to ground elements and all exit points at bottom of elevated play components. At swingset area, consider replacing loose fill with unitary surface materials.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Play Areas for Accessible Route; and, Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

##### **Tables**

When alterations next occur, consider installing at least one accessible table with accessible Knee and Toe clearance.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Building Blocks for Knee and Toe Clearance; and, Built-In Elements for Dining Surfaces and Work Surfaces*

## **Access to Amenities**

### ***Drinking Fountain***

Where a working drinking fountain(s) is installed, ensure that it is adjoining an accessible route, and includes a clear floor or ground space for forward approach and centered on unit.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Drinking Fountains and Alterations Affecting Primary Function Areas; and, Plumbing Elements and Facilities for Drinking Fountains.*



### **Buck Field ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Provide at least 1 van-accessible space close to facility entrance
- 2 Create an accessible route to connect the facility entrance with parking, sidewalks and outside bleachers and gated team areas.
- 3 Create an accessible route to connect all program areas within perimeter of site to entrance.
- 4 Mitigate cross slope issues at all entry/exit points of accessible play components.
- 5 Include accessible ground surface materials.
- 6 Install accessible table



## Buzzell Field

Located between Summer Street and Russell Place, **Buzzell Field** is a large neighborhood park easily accessed from the nearby Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. This includes one playground with slides, swings and a sandbox with digging tools, one basketball court, two softball/little league fields with dugouts and lights for night play.

An asphalt walkway is provided between the points of entry and most features in the facility, including the playground, the basketball court, and of the team seating area of the softball/little league field closest to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. Very limited on-street parking is available.

### Location:

29 Summer Street

### Year Built:

Unknown

### Known Renovations since 1991:

- 1997 – Installation of playground
- 2006 – Major renovation

### Primary Function Areas Surveyed:

- Playground (rubber and wood fiber)
- Basketball Court
- Two Softball/Little League Fields

### Public Programs:

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits



Photo 1

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Crosswalk and Curb Ramps***

At the intersection of Summer Street and Victoria Road, a highly visible pedestrian crosswalk leads to one of the points of entry to this facility. The curb ramp is inadequately constructed and is missing the top level landing. (Photo1)

#### ***Sidewalks***

The sidewalk along Summer Street is in poor condition. Not only are a few sections extremely deteriorated but street posts also compromise sidewalk widths.

All of the issues described above negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Summer Street @ Richfield Street.

#### ***Points of Entry***

There are two points of entry in this facility: one on Summer Street and one on Russell Place / bike path access point. Both points of entry have walkways with excessive slopes. (Photos 2 and 3)



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

## Access to Facility Areas

### Field Playing Areas

Although an asphalt walkway is provided between the points of entry and most features in the facility, including the playground, the basketball court, and of the team seating area of the softball/little league field closest to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, no accessible route is provided to either softball/little league field. (Photo 4)

### Play Areas

Although the rubber surface extends from the asphalt walkway to a few transfer steps of the play structure, it is not properly maintained and it is covered by wood fiber. Additionally, not all ground play elements are connected to an accessible route. (Photo 5)



Photo 5

## Access to Elements

### Benches

Two benches are provided on the south edge of the site along the bike path. Both are inaccessible because they do not adjoin an accessible route.

### Portable Toilet

One portable toilet is designated as accessible and is located at the point of entry along the bike path. However, this amenity is not inaccessible because it does not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 6)



Photo 6

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Extend the sidewalk along existing curb ramp at crosswalk on Summer Street to include a level landing adjacent to the curb ramp (about 15 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalks**

When future sidewalk alterations are made to Summer Street, repair surface and ensure consistent cross slopes to the maximum extent possible (about 400 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Points of Entry**

Re-grade both points of entry so that asphalt walkways do not exceed 5% of running slope (about 50 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Field Playing Areas**

Extend the asphalt walkway to the nearby softball/little league (about 50 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Play Areas**

Provide new accessible walkways and maintain existing walkways to transfer points within the playground (about 50 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### Access to Elements

##### **Benches**

Relocate one of the benches to an accessible area or install an accessible walkway to it (about 125 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 1 bench).

##### **Portable Toilet**

Relocate the portable toilet along the existing asphalt walkway or extend the walkway to it (about 10 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*



#### **Buzzell Field ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Crosswalks and Curb Ramps:** Extend the sidewalk along existing curb ramp at crosswalk on Summer Street to include a level landing adjacent to the curb ramp.
- 2 Sidewalks:** Repair surface and ensure consistent cross slopes to the maximum extent possible.
- 3 Points of Entry:** Re-grade both points of entry so that asphalt walkways do not exceed 5% of running slope.
- 4 Field Playing Areas:** Extend the asphalt walkway to the nearby softball/little league.
- 5 Play Areas:** Provide new accessible walkways and maintain existing walkways to transfer points within the playground.
- 6 Benches:** Relocate one of the benches to an accessible area or install an accessible walkway to it. Consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced.
- 7 Portable Toilet:** Relocate the portable toilet along the existing asphalt walkway or extend the walkway to it.



## Crosby School & Tennis Courts

**Crosby School & Tennis Courts** is a facility with 4 gated tennis courts for singles and doubles games, a hardtop court area with basketball plus another singles tennis or badminton court, an open field used for soccer team practices, a hardtop play area with hopscotch and four-square games, and a bordered play area with a large composite play structure, smaller ground play elements and a swingset. Benches, picnic tables and a portable bathroom are included at this versatile facility.

Elevated play elements include American Sign Language interactive boards, spring rockers, and small play elements for dramatic free play.

At least one accessible route should be provided within the site from nearby public transit stops to the accessible entrance; and, all facility areas, elements and amenities along at least one accessible interior route.

### **Location:**

Between Winter and Oxford Streets next to former Crosby School.

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2005 – Construction of new Tennis Courts.<sup>10</sup>

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground
- Tennis Courts, Doubles
- Tennis Court, Singles
- Basketball Court
- Playground
- Hardtop Games Court
- Open Field
- Seating areas

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Tennis Courts open 9 a.m.
- Field permits for Team practices
- Hard Court Tennis Tournaments
- Playground
- Basketball
- Portable toilet provided

<sup>10</sup> 2005 Town Annual Report:  
[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_WebDocs/AnnualReport/HumanServices.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_WebDocs/AnnualReport/HumanServices.pdf).



Photo 1

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

The North/South crosswalks at intersection of Oxford St. and Raleigh St. include a skewed route across Oxford to facility. Pedestrian line of sight on Raleigh St. side of skewed crosswalk is obstructed by pole and mailbox. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

The new apex curb ramp at the SW Oxford/ Raleigh is not fully contained within either crosswalk and the bottom landing requires maintenance. Ramp leads users into road instead of along sidewalk route. (Photo 2)

Perpendicular curb ramps and a straight crosswalk are recommended at this intersection.

#### ***Sidewalks***

At the time of the survey, new sidewalk reconstruction on Winter Street had just been completed.

Oxford St. sidewalks are in disrepair with large panel gaps, level changes, varying widths, excessive slopes and not smooth. (Photo 3)

All of the issues described above negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from nearby public transit stops at Broadway @ Oxford (route 87) and Massachusetts Ave @ Lake St. (routes 77, 79, 350).



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

### ***Parking***

The adjacent Parking facility along Oxford St. is reserved for Dearborn Academy. However, this facility includes a connecting path and fence opening into the Crosby facility at the hopscotch/four-square court and field.

### ***Public Transit Access***

Crosswalk and curb ramps at Broadway @ Oxford do not fully lead users to reciprocal curb ramps and the curb ramp bottom landings require maintenance.

The Massachusetts Avenue @ Lake Street, pedestrian infrastructure is outdated.



Photo 5

### ***Point of Entry***

The main facility entrance, with signage, is along Oxford. There are exterior approach and entry sidewalk issues here, including change of level and excessive cross slopes. The interior walkway and entrance is well maintained. (Photo 5)

The reserved adjacent parking lot includes a back paved path connected to facility's hopscotch/four-square court and interior walkways. This path requires maintenance for level changes and slope issues. (Photo 4)



Photo 6

The entry from Oxford is inaccessible and not safe. The entry point is located at a narrow fence opening and includes a dirt path that is narrow, not smooth and level, and that is overlapped by the high level changes inscribing the Basketball/Singles Tennis court area. (Photo 6)



Photo 7

### ***Gates***

The Tennis Court is enclosed with a high fence and gate. Gate is accessible and ground surface between outside and inside of gated area is well maintained.

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.



Photo 8

#### ***Interior Walkways***

Existing interior walkway is well maintained, but is not connected to the open field playing areas, Basketball Court, picnic tables, portable toilet, and most benches. It is connected to the hopscotch/four-square open court and to the Tennis Courts gate.

The paved interior walkway does not provide an accessible connection into the bordered playground. (Photo 8)



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

## **Access to Facility Areas, cont.**

### ***Play areas***

The play area with loose-fill ground surface materials does not include an accessible point of entry due to the border fully surrounding the perimeter of this play area. (See Photo 9, previous page)

The playground loose fill materials have excessive cross slopes at some entry/exit points, such as at the spring rocker, at the bottom (exit point) of some slides, and at some transfer steps on the large composite structure. These ground surface issues are a current barrier to accessible circulation to and between ground play elements. (Photo 10)

The hardtop games play court is accessible. (Photo 11)

### ***Play elements***

The playground includes at least five types of accessible ground play elements, a composite play structure with at least five types of elevated play components, and a stationary swingset that includes bucket seats. With less than 19 total play components within playground, the play components are within current standards, because the transfer station provides stepped access to over 51% of the elevated play elements.

No accessible elevated route to elevated play components is currently provided. (Photo 12)



Photo 12

### **Courts**

The fenced Tennis Court with four doubles courts is an accessible area.

There is a full Basketball Court and a singles tennis or badminton court located on the Winter St. side of facility. There is no accessible point of entry into and through this area from Winter St. sidewalks, and there is no accessible route to this area from the field. (Photo 12)

While this entrance from Winter Street remains inaccessible, directional signage should be placed at the sidewalk entrance directing users to the nearest accessible route into facility. (See Photo 6, p. C-26)



Photo 13

### **Fields**

The Open field is one of the Town's scheduled soccer practice fields, and provides a lovely grassy space at other times. Picnic tables are in the field and benches are along the field perimeter. The field is adjacent to the ground games court, which is connected to the accessible interior walkways. (Photo 13)

The perimeter of the field play areas and elements and amenities supporting field activities (such as benches, picnic tables and the portable toilet) are not connected along at least one accessible route with the playground, Basketball court, and accessible entrance to facility. (Photo 14)



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Tables***

There are two picnic tables provided. Currently, tables are not accessible because they are not along an accessible route, and there is not an integrated clear space for users of wheeled mobility devices to sit at tables.

### ***Benches***

There are nine benches with backrests provided within facility; none have armrests. The two benches facing the Tennis Courts are along an accessible interior walkway route.

Benches around the perimeter of the playground are not connected to an accessible route and do not provide a clear, level, firm and smooth space on either side that is at least 30 inches by 48 inches.

### ***Signage***

Informational Signage regarding Tennis Court rules is posted on the fence. This information is mounted too high for comfortable viewing. There is no information regarding how to obtain this information in alternate accessible formats. (Photo 17)



*Photo 18*

## **Access to Amenities**

### **Portable Toilet**

There is a portable toilet located at the edge of the field.

This amenity is not connected along an accessible route to the field playing areas, the two play areas, the gated Tennis Courts, the Basketball and Singles / Badminton Tennis Court, or any facility entrances.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks & Curb Ramps**

Provide two perpendicular curb ramps and one additional crosswalk between north Raleigh St. sidewalk and Oxford St. sidewalk.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalks**

Reconstruct Oxford St. sidewalks, from Broadway to Massachusetts Ave. (about 1,465 feet)

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes,*

##### **Points of Entry**

Design an alternate, level-graded solution to substitute for the raised curved lip to the badminton court at the drain adjacent to the Winter St. point of entry. This is necessary to provide at least a 36-inch wide accessible route between the Winter Street sidewalk point of entry to the west side of facility fields. (Approx. 15 SF of level-graded plus reshaping hardtop)

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Location; Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Entrances; Accessible Routes for Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Play Area - Entrance**

Provide a ramped entry or a level entry to recessed playground that is connected to accessible interior walkways.

##### **Play Area - Accessible Route**

a. If only loose fill ground surface materials are used, a high-frequency maintenance policy needs to be in place to ensure accessibility of ground surface materials in play area use zones through all seasons.

b. If ground surface materials will be replaced: consider adding impact-attenuating tiles within the playground areas to provide accessible routes and clear ground spaces to all entry/exit points of ground play elements, including swingsets, spring rockers and play structure.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

##### **Field and Court Playing Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and the soccer fields, and at least one basketball court entrance (about 70 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

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## **Access to Elements**

### ***Benches***

Whenever the surface of the playground is corrected, ensure that benches are also connected to an accessible route.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Provide clear floor space adjacent to at least one bench along interior walkway facing tennis court area, not to overlap with accessible route.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Walking Surfaces; and Built-In Elements for Benches, Clear Floor or Ground Space*

### ***Tables***

Landscape and re-grade around at least one picnic table to provide a smooth, firm, non-slip route connecting table to interior walkway (about 10 feet).

At open side of table, add a clear ground surface of at least 36 inches width and at least 48 inches length of clear, firm ground space for integrated seating. Make sure this clear ground space is connected to the accessible route (about 4 SF).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Walking Surfaces; Built-In Elements for Dining Surfaces, Clear Floor or Ground Space, Height.*

### ***Signage***

Lower Tennis Court Rules Signage so it can be viewed from the interior walkway at between 48 -60".

Have alternate formats of this printed information readily available in digital formats (.txt, .brf) and in Large Print.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping for Signage, Designations; Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*

## **Access to Amenities**

### ***Portable Toilet***

Extend the asphalt walkway to portable toilet amenity (about 75 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*



### **Crosby School / Tennis Courts ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Create an accessible route to connect the facility with sidewalks and shared use paths.
- 2 Create an accessible route to connect facility areas, elements and amenities with accessible interior walkways.
- 3 Remove a portion of the border and/or extend the accessible route for wheelchair users to enter/exit.
- 4 Integrate wheelchair seating space at benches and tables.
- 5 Ensure signage is mounted at correct height.
- 6 Include accessible ground surface materials.



## Cutter School Park

**Cutter School Park** is a small neighborhood park located adjacent to the former Cutter School between Robbins Road and School Street. This facility includes one playground with slides and swings and small grassy area with three four-top tables.

An asphalt walkway is provided between the points of entry and most features in the facility. On-street parking is available on the adjacent streets.

**Location:**

59 School Street, former Cutter School

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2001 – Installation of playground

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground (wood fiber)

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Photo 1



Photo 2

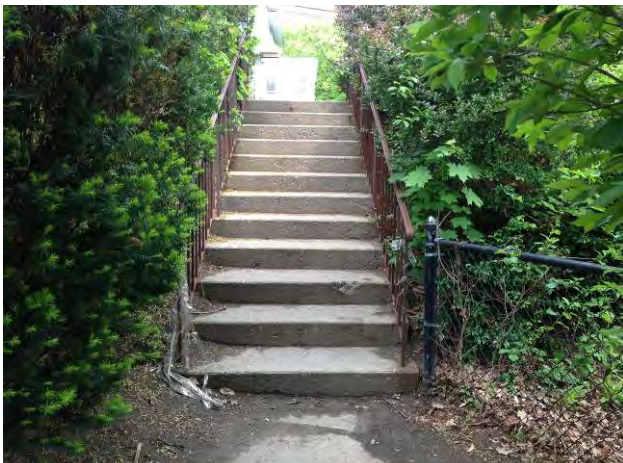


Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Sidewalks***

The sidewalks along Robbins Road and School Street are in poor condition. Not only is section of the sidewalk along Robbins Road extremely deteriorated but also the sidewalk along School Street has excessive cross slopes and deteriorated control joints. (Photos 1 and 2)

This issue negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Massachusetts Avenue @ Brattle Street.

#### ***Points of Entry***

This facility has two points of entry: one stairway on Robbins Road and a brick and asphalt walkway on School Street. Neither is accessible because the stairway does not have compliant railings on both sides and the brick are damaged and have excessive cross and running slopes. Further, this inaccessible point of entry on Robbins Road does not offer an ADA-compliant sign directing the public to the accessible point of entry on the opposite side of the facility. (Photo 3)



*Photo 4*

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Interior Walkways***

An asphalt walkway is provided between the points of entry and most features in the facility. However, the walkway section along the adjacent parking lot is obstructed by vegetation; and, the walkway section between the playground and the entrance at School Street each have excessive running slopes (9%). (Photo 4)

### ***Play Areas***

Although the asphalt walkway surrounds the playground, it does not extend to all transfer points of the play structure. (Photo 5)



*Photo 5*

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Tables***

Three four-top tables are provided between the playground and the entrance at Robbins Road. Although one table provides the required knee clearance for wheeled mobility devices, it is not offered along an accessible route. (Photo 6)



*Photo 6*

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## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair the sidewalks along Robbins Road and School Street (about 100 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

##### **Points of Entry**

Install compliant railings on both sides of the stairway on Robbins Road (about 25 feet) and install an ADA-compliant sign at the top of the stairway to direct the public to the accessible point of entry on School Street.

Repair the brick walkway on School Street so that changes in level do not exceed 1/4" and cross and running slopes do not exceed 2% (about 10 feet).

Re-grade the asphalt walkway on School Street so that cross slopes do not exceed 2% and running slopes do not exceed 5% (about 25 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Stairways and Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Extend the existing asphalt walkway along the South edge of the playground (about 50 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Play Areas**

Remove a portion of curb along the perimeter of the playground and replenish or replace the ground surface so that it is flush with the adjacent walkway.

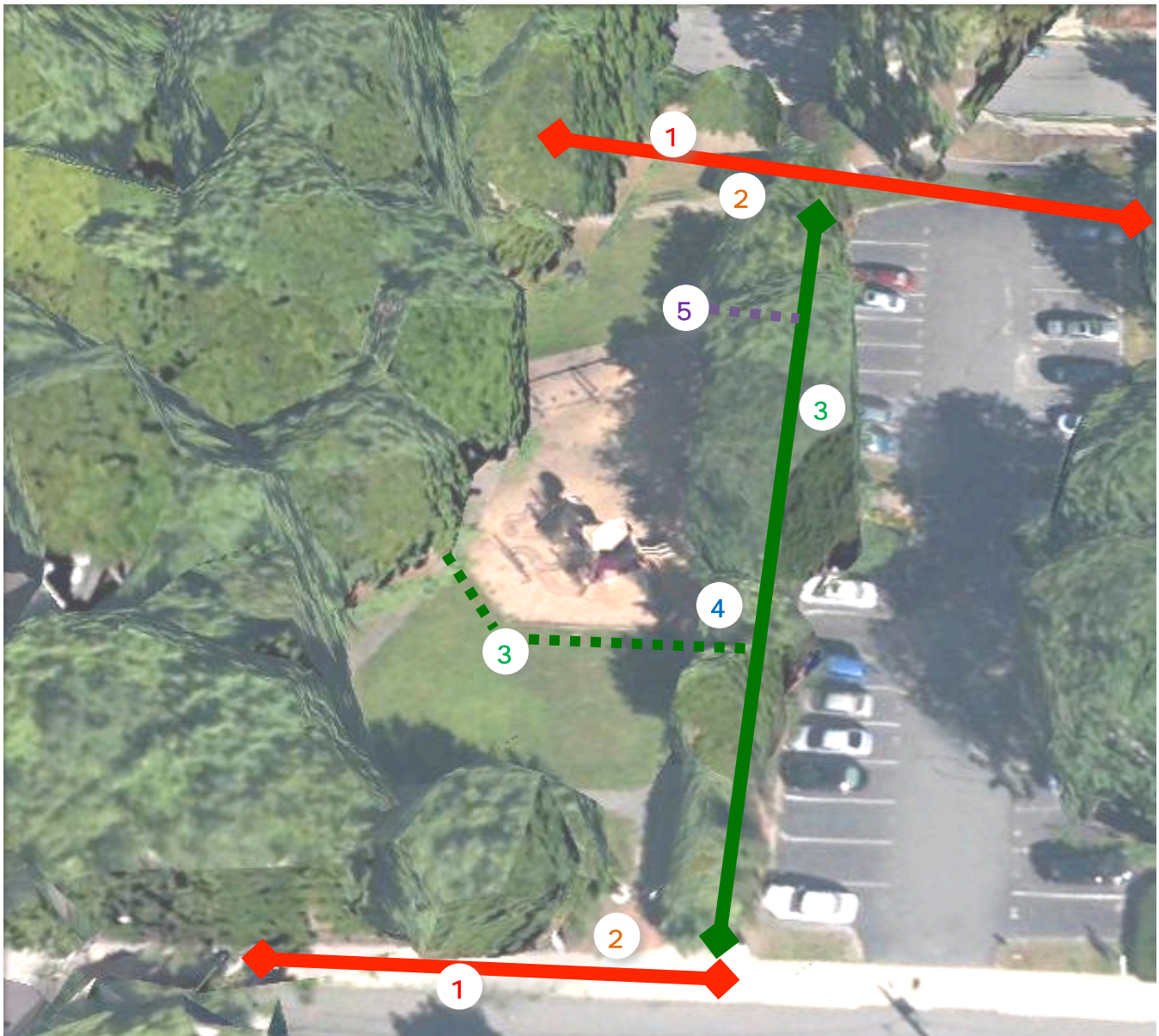
*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### Access to Elements

##### **Tables**

Extend the asphalt walkway to the table designated as accessible (about 10 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*



### Cutter School Park ADA Recommendations

- 1 Sidewalks:** Repair the sidewalks along Robbins Road and School Street
- 2 Points of Entry:** Install compliant railings on both sides of the stairway on Robbins Road and install an ADA-compliant sign at the top of the stairway to direct the public to the accessible point of entry on School Street. Repair the brick walkway on School Street so that changes in level do not exceed 1/4" and cross and running slopes do not exceed 2%. Re-grade the asphalt walkway on School Street so that cross slopes do not exceed 2% and running slopes do not exceed 5%.
- 3 Interior Walkways:** Extend the existing asphalt walkway along the South edge of the playground.
- 4 Play Areas:** Remove a portion of curb along the perimeter of the playground and replenish or replace the ground surface so that it is flush with the adjacent walkway.
- 5 Tables:** Extend the asphalt walkway to the table designated as accessible.



## Ed Burns Arena

**Ed Burns Arena** is an indoor ice facility that is mostly inaccessible at present. Renovations since at least 2010 have increased the capacity of the ice rink; further renovations are needed to increase the accessibility of programming at this unique facility.

The facility includes a regulation size rink of 85'x 197' with spectator seating for over 1,000 people. Complete snack bar service (hours vary) and vending machines are available in the main lobby, along with skate rental and sharpening services. Team rooms are provided for those renting ice time. The facility is the home of Arlington Hockey and Figure Skating Association, Arlington High School, and Arlington Catholic High School, as well as various youth groups from the surrounding area. The facility is open September to March for ice rink skating parties and larger social and sports-related groups. In spring and summer, sports programming at the rink includes large-scale fundraising events, school dances, and spring leagues for floor hockey, indoor soccer, dodge ball, and volleyball. During some months, the rink is covered with rubber flooring. The Arena is available for birthday party and facility rentals year-round.

### Location:

422 Summer Street

### Year Built:

1971

### Known Renovations since 1991:

- 2010 – Arlington Sports Center/Veterans' Memorial Rink Improvement Project:
  - New extended rink bed
  - Seamless glass for spectator area
  - Increased size of player's benches
  - Modified penalty box and timer's booth
  - Mechanical and electrical updates
  - New "handicap ramp and viewing area"<sup>11</sup>
  - Improved dehumidification system
  - Installed new heating system
- 2012 – New rubber flooring for Spring/Summer season

### Primary Function Areas Surveyed:

- Parking facility
- Main Lobby with Skate Rental counter
- Vending Machine corridor
- Snack Bar/Dining Area
- Ice Rink
- Spectator & Team Seating area
- Penalty Box/Announcer's Booth
- Team Locker/Shower rooms

### Public Programs:

- Public ice skating hours, Sept. - April
- Indoor Field Sports, May - July
- Spectator ice hockey and skating sports
- School-based team sports
- Sports organization, team and leagues
- Birthday party rentals
- Meeting place for some seasonal programs

<sup>11</sup> Info retrieved 1/30/14 from:  
[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2010/Recreation.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2010/Recreation.pdf)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalks<sup>12</sup>***

There is currently no accessible pedestrian route from nearby public transit, streets/sidewalks, and the Bikeway Shared Use Trail to this facility- or to any facilities within the Sports Complex - at this time.

Crosswalk areas reconstructed near facility sign along Route 2A do not currently provide pedestrian support into the facility from the north and the nearby (approximately 355 feet east of sign) public transit stop at Summer St. @ Forest St., because the sidewalks from the Route 2A sign into the Arena parking facility need to be brought up to code with ramping and handrail treatments. (Photo 1)

Along Ryder Street, there is no safe crossing from points south (bikeway and neighboring streets) and east (Summer St. Park). Pedestrians and motorists are not provided cues and clues about how to avoid interfering with each other.

Within the parking facility used for Arena programs and for Buck Field/ Hill's Hill programs, there are two marked crosswalks located at the access aisles adjacent to the designated accessible parking spaces. These crosswalks do not provide an accessible route connection from parking spaces to the entrance, because they lead to inaccessible sidewalks and curb cuts. (Photo 2 and 3)

<sup>12</sup> For a detailed survey report for Sports Complex Site Arrival issues please see the Sports Center Site Arrival Survey, Part C, ADA Self Evaluation



Photo 4

### ***Curb Ramps***

The apex curb ramp at the facility sidewalk facing Summer St. Park is inaccessible, with steep running slopes, excessive cross slopes, and missing flared sides. The gutter and sidewalk transitions have excessive changes in level. Curb ramp is unusable. Due to its excessive slopes, water and ice accumulation are probable. (Photo 4)

The two curb cuts located within the parking lot connecting the designated accessible parking spaces to facility perimeter sidewalk are located at the shared access aisles between two designated parking spaces. These curb cuts, similar to the curb cut facing Summer Street Park, have no usable features. Water and ice accumulation are probable. When crossing these curb ramps to move along the sidewalk between the Recreation Department Office on the side to the front Arena entrance doors, individuals are faced with extreme dips and rises in the sidewalk. These inaccessible curb ramps require redesign and reconstruction to come up to code. (Photo 5)



Photo 5

### ***Sidewalks***

The facility is surrounded on three sides with a walkway that does not provide accessible connections to the parking lot crosswalks, the entrance doors, the Arena emergency exit doors, or the ramp that leads into the Recreation Department office. This inaccessible sidewalk has warped, uneven surfaces and requires redesign and reconstruction to come up to code. (Photo 6)



Photo 6

The sidewalk route designed to provide an accessible entrance route to one set of entrance doors does not provide an accessible route, is of varying widths, has depressions, cracks and level changes with dissimilar ground surface materials, and requires redesign and reconstruction to come up to code.



Photo 7

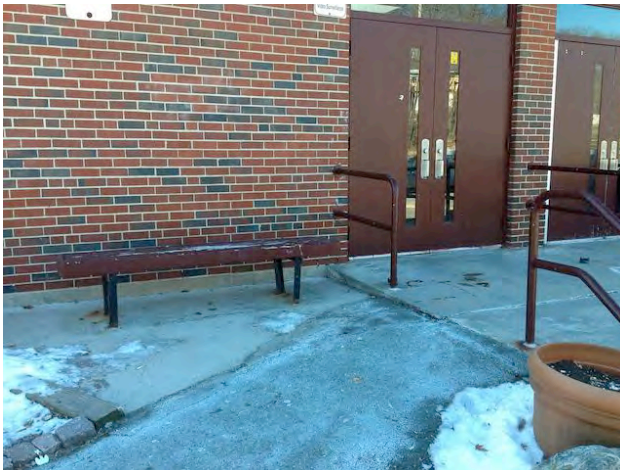


Photo 8



Photo 9

### ***Parking***

Facility parking lot has approximately 75 spaces, including spaces adjacent to Buck Field/Hill's Hill. 4 are designated as accessible. Two are in front and two are at the side, near the Recreation Department office. Each set shares an access aisle.

At least one accessible space in this public parking facility should be located adjacent to the Buck Field/Hill's Hill programs. The accessible spaces in the front parking area are not on the closest route to Arena entrance because the walkway designed to lead to the accessible entrance begins at the corner, about 40 feet from the entrance stairway. One space is obstructed by an adjacent speed bump on the driver's side. All have excessive cross slopes. (Photo 7)

### ***Drop-Off & Pick-Up Waiting Area, Bench***

The drop-off and pick-up area in front of the entrance includes a bench but no clear space for accessible integrated wheelchair seating. The design and location of this waiting area is an obstruction along the walkway that is supposed to provide an accessible route into facility.

### ***Point of Entry***

Facility has one public entranceway area with two sets of double doors, and a 3-step stairway with divider handrails. The no-step entrance is along a walkway from side parking area, leading to only one set of doors. (Photo 9)

Inaccessible entrances require directional signage and accessible entrances require an International Sign of Accessibility (ISA) at the entrance. Recommendation is to redesign entryway to provide access at both sets of doors; and to ensure that at least one accessible route links all facilities, programs, elements and amenities outside and inside the entire Complex.



Photo 10

### **Stairway**

Entrance steps require handrails that extend at least 12 inches plus the width of one tread beyond the bottom riser. (Photo 10)

### **Emergency Egress Route**

Within the Arena there are at least four doors for emergency exit, but only one leads to a no-step area. This area does not include an accessible route from the door to the facility walkway or to the parking lot. Snow, slush, water and ice removal are important items to include on a routine maintenance list for the parking lot and the designated accessible emergency exit area.

There needs to be redesign and construction of a code-compliant emergency egress route at this Arena parking facility location. The route should not overlap with parked cars and needs to be continuously accessible, leading to an area of safe refuge.(Photo 11)



Photo 11

Inside the facility, an emergency egress route map is posted along the hallway walls. This map needs to be clearly marked, with accessible routes conspicuously designated and easy to read. Such signage can be mounted between 48- 60" above the floor.

Emergency management plans with specific provisions to ensure the safe evacuation of employees, visitors and program participants living with disabilities plays an essential role in fire safety, life safety, and accessibility of employee and public programs.<sup>13</sup>

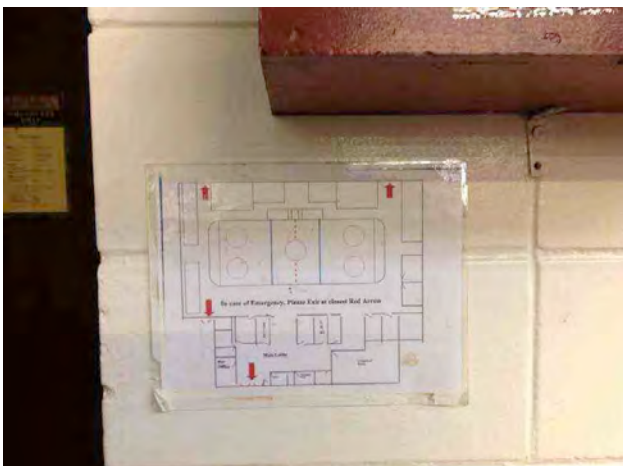


Photo 12

<sup>13</sup> For more information, please see ADA advisory materials, re Accessible Route, at [http://www.adaportal.org/Facility\\_Access/ADAAG/Appendix/ADAAG\\_Appendix\\_4-3.html](http://www.adaportal.org/Facility_Access/ADAAG/Appendix/ADAAG_Appendix_4-3.html) and the International Code Council discussion at [http://publicecodes.cyberregs.com/icc/cabo/a117p1/i cc\\_cabo\\_a117p1\\_appa\\_par009.htm](http://publicecodes.cyberregs.com/icc/cabo/a117p1/i cc_cabo_a117p1_appa_par009.htm)



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15

## Access to Facility Areas

### Lobby and Main Room

#### Circulation

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility. The at-grade set of entrance doors leads into a partitioned lobby area lined on one side by vending machines and on the other side by the Rental/ Ticket service area. Because these two partitioned areas are enclosed areas on 3 sides, wheelchair passing spaces of at least 48 inches, unobstructed clear floor space are needed. (Photo 3)

The location of the vending machines at the entrance area may create a crowded and impassable condition during spectator events. (Photo 14)

The circulation route from the accessible entrance to the Snack Bar counter, Arcade, Schedules and Trophy displays, and public elements and amenities is not clearly indicated and maintained at least 36 inches wide. It is obstructed by the placement of a condiments table and trashcan by the service counter; and, by multiple protruding objects<sup>14</sup> and tripping hazards along the walls and into the routes.

Protruding objects within the Main Room/Lobby circulation route include: (Photo 15)

- Brochure exhibit near service counter;
- Wall-mounted schedules, Trophy displays;
- Change machine
- 2 drinking fountains
- Wall-mounted Bench seats
- Electric box near Rink entrance

<sup>14</sup> **Protruding objects** are objects that are not cane-detectable because they protrude from a side wall or object over 4 inches into general circulation route and are mounted or hang between 27 - 80 inches from the floor or ground surface.



Photo 16

The Main Room/Lobby area also contains multiple tripping hazards<sup>15</sup>, which include:

- Floor mats at entrance, which need to be securely fastened to minimize tripping hazards;
- Folding board signage and pole signage;
- Lost & Found box, which has an edge, not aligned with side edge of adjacent Vending machines. (Photo 16)

Protruding objects and tripping hazards are programmatic barriers because they obstruct a clear accessible route into areas of programs, services, and activities.

## Access to Elements

### Lobby and Main Room

#### ***Service Counters, Shelves, Dispensing Devices***

The Equipment Rental/Ticket Counter at Entrance is not accessible because the counter is too high. (Photo 17)



Photo 17

The 7 Vending Machines of *various* types are not accessible because all operable parts are not within reach ranges.

The Recreation Office After-Hours Drop-Off box located on the Department door between the 4th and 5th vending machines is not accessible because it is within a shallow recessed area that does not provide for unobstructed clear floor space for forward or parallel approach. (Photo 18)



Photo 18

<sup>15</sup> **Tripping hazards** are objects located along the circulation route that project into walkways from the floor and are not cane detectable because of their location adjacent to dissimilar floor/wall items or because they are not anchored in a stable manner.



Photo 19

The **Change machine** located to the right of the Lost & Found bin is inaccessible because there is not enough clear floor space to provide for parallel or side approach; and because operable controls are not mounted within reach ranges.

The **Snack Bar Service Counter** is not accessible because there it is higher than 36 inches above the floor and is not at least 36 inches long.

The **foozball game** is not accessible because there is not enough clear floor space for forward or parallel approach. (Photo 20- also shows protruding object measurement.)



Photo 20

## Access to Amenities

### Lobby and Main Room

#### *Drinking Fountains*

Two wall-mounted drinking fountains are located within the Main Lobby/Main Room area near bathrooms. One fountain can be accessible if it is relocated in an area allowing for sufficient clear floor space at least 48 inches length from the wall adjoining and not overlapping with an accessible circulation route.

Neither fountain provides access to standing persons because the spout is lower than 38 inches above the floor. (Photo 21)

Both fountains protrude into circulation area and need a cane-detectable barrier or object placed beneath.

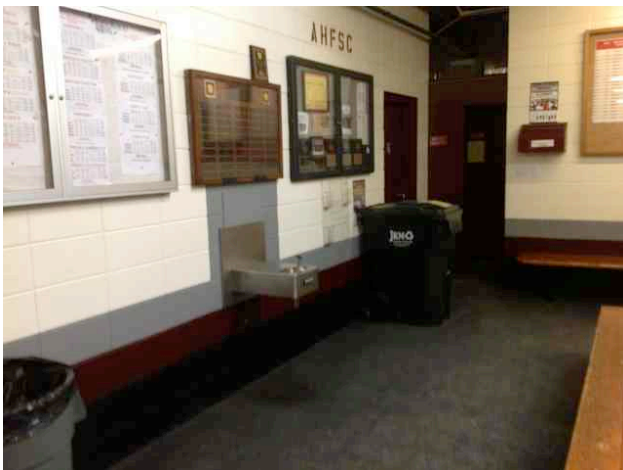


Photo 21



Photo 22



Photo 23

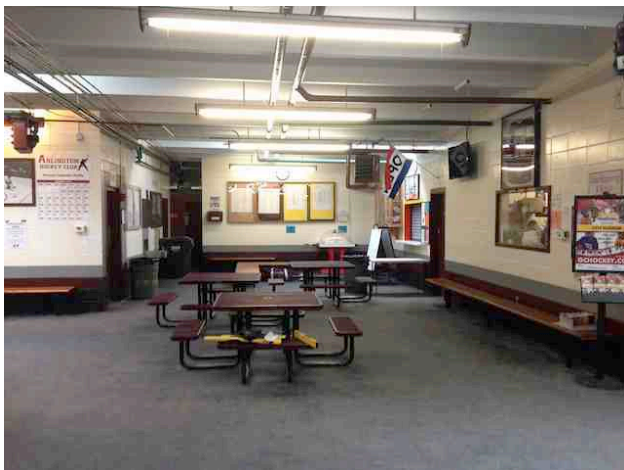


Photo 24

### **Public Bathrooms**

One Women and one Men room is located within the Main room area.

Access to the Women's and Men's Room doors is impeded because of multiple protruding objects against the walls. (Photo 22)

Accessible features:

- Both bathrooms provide fire alarm systems with both flashing lights and audible alarms.
- Door latches, mirrors and baby changing stations are accessible.
- In accessible stalls, toilet paper dispensers, and grab bars are accessible.

Inaccessible features:

- The M accessible stall lacks sufficient side transfer space. (F stall is OK)
- Accessible stall doors swing inward instead of outward.
- Faucet hardware requires grasping, pinching and twisting.
- Coat hooks not mounted within reach ranges.
- M & F Bathroom walls have protruding objects mounted within circulation route, including hand dryer, towel dispenser, and sanitary napkin dispensers. (Photo

### **Tables and Benches in Snack Bar area**

Three 8-top Tables and 6 Benches (4 against wall) are provided. At least one or 5% accessible tables not provided. Knee clearance not provided at tables. No free-standing benches have backrests or armrests. (Photo 24)

Tables, benches and amenities should be arranged to be along a continuous accessible route with at least 36 inches width to all areas and elements at facility.



Photo 25

### ***Informational Signage, Lobby/Main Room***

At the entrance and throughout the Main Room, multiple signs give a cluttered appearance. Important signage regarding facility and services information is mounted too high. (Photo 25)

Snack Bar Menu is also not mounted within viewing range. It is recommended to have alternate format menus readily available upon request. This includes Large Print formats. (Photo 26)

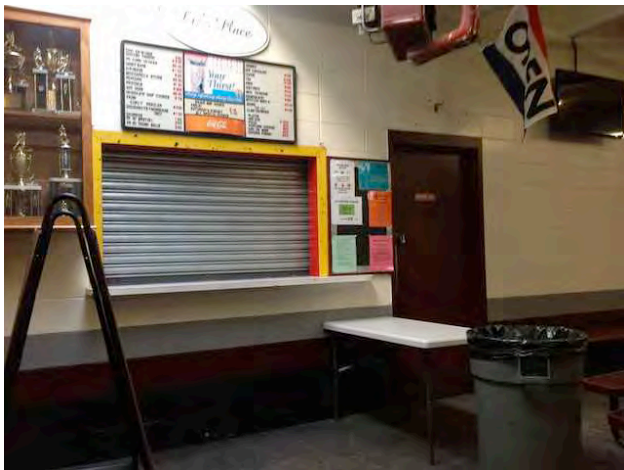


Photo 26

## **Approach & Entry**

### **Indoor Sports/Ice Skating Rink Arena**

#### ***Point of Entry***

From the Main Lobby to the Sports Arena, benches on either side and a box located on the wall act as protruding object because there is no protection or barriers to allow visually impaired persons to detect these barriers within the route. (Photo 27)



Photo 27



Photo 28

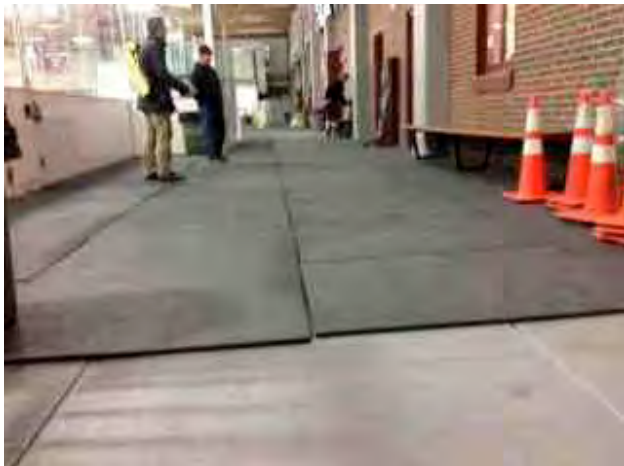


Photo 29



Photo 30

## Access to Facility Areas

### Indoor Sports/Ice Skating Rink Arena

#### **Walkways**

There is a wide route leading from public entryway to the team locker rooms and team benches.

Multiple objects against walls protrude over 4 inches into the circulation route. All objects that are mounted on walls between 27 - 80 inches from floor with no floor-to-bottom detectable shielding need to be made cane-detectable, with shapes that align pedestrians along general public circulation paths. (Photo 28)

Floor mats have edges that exceed 1/2 inch beveled, and need to be securely fastened to prevent tripping hazards. (Photo 29)

*Note: Photos were taken during a morning time when Arena was not open to the public.*

#### **Team Seating**

There are no signs designating Team Benches and Bleachers. An area to the right of the rink is separated from the rest of the fixed spectator seating and may be an area used for team meetings. (Photo 30)

Wheelchair seating areas need to be an integral part of all seating plans, including where teams gather, meet and function together. The wheelchair-accessible seats should adjoin the accessible route that also serves as a means of accessible egress in case of emergency.



Photo 31



Photo 32

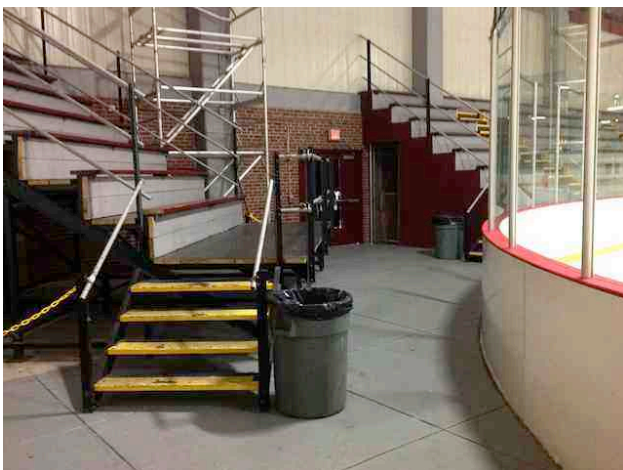


Photo 33

### ***Rink Entrance***

There are two rink entrances: the general public entrance and the Zamboni machine entrance. Both rink entrances are inaccessible. The general public's entrance is narrower than 32 inches and has unbeveled level changes over 1/2 inch on both sides of the entry strip.

The Zamboni entrance, which is currently designated as the accessible rink entrance, is not accessible because it has unbeveled level changes over 1/2 inch on both sides of the entry strip- and cannot reliably be maintained as safe, smooth, and free of encrusted ice chips, etc. This entrance is also not within the general public path of travel.

### ***Spectator Seating***

The Plexiglas-enclosed fixed spectator seating has several sections offering various sight lines of rink and scoreboards, and seats approximately 1,085 spectators. It is completely inaccessible to individuals who do not use stairs.

A small ramped platform was recently constructed to seat three wheelchair users in a row, completely separated from the spectator seating area, and unsafe for the users during any emergency. While this may have been designed with an unobstructed view as a goal, such segregated seating is specifically prohibited by the ADA. (Photo 32)

Accessible seating locations may be located at ends of sections, as long as they are adjoining an accessible route and provide access to all public areas, elements and amenities within the general path of travel to the maximum extent possible. At least one companion seat must be provided next to each wheelchair seating location. Moveable seating may be part of this arrangement. (Photo 33)



Photo 34

### ***M & F Dressing Rooms with shower stall***

The Skating Rink Arena includes an M & F Team Dressing Room w/ wall benches, hooks and 3-Shower stalls. (Photo 34)

The Dressing Rooms are inaccessible because:

- There is no clear floor space for wheelchair seating and dressing within the wall-mounted bench areas,
- The hooks are higher than 48 inches above the floor and lack minimal 30 inches by 48 inches clear floor space,
- The shower stalls and washing areas have entry ledges that are higher than a beveled 1/2 inch maximum height, and
- The wall-mounted bench seats are not between 17-19 inches above the floor.

The threshold between outside and inside the locker rooms is a tripping hazard and needs to blend with the circulation route with no more than a 1/2 inch beveled transition.



Photo 35

### ***Fixed Penalty Box/Timer's Booth***

The Penalty box/timer's booth area includes an announcer booth, and scoreboard controls in center.

This team penalty box and announcer's booth is an inaccessible primary function area. The doorways may be too narrow, there are vertical level changes to enter; and the space within does not provide at least a 60" diagonal or 60" x 60' clear floor space for turning.

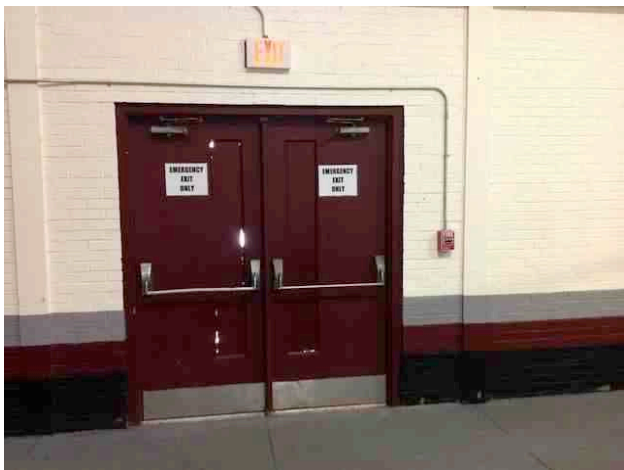


Photo 36

### ***Emergency Exit Doors***

The emergency exits have both visual and auditory alarms.

All Emergency Exit doors need to be clearly marked as either accessible or inaccessible. Accessible Emergency Exit doors open to a no-step accessible egress route. (Photo 36)

## Recommendations

### Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entry

##### **Crosswalks, Sidewalks, Curb Ramps**

Reconstruct sidewalks from Rte. 2 A into parking facility.

- On Arena facility side, reconstruct sidewalk as a ramp with handrails, at least one mid-level landing, and extending from curb ramp adjacent to Rte. 2A Sports Complex sign to parking facility opening.
- Provide a cut-through route, equal to width of ramp, with 2 crosswalks, that extends from ramp to facility corner, crossing the two parking lot openings and through the landscape separator feature. Provide crosswalks at each opening, and a tactile strip at each end of both crosswalks.
- When redesigning Arena entryway and perimeter sidewalk, include a crosswalk between facility north corner and Summer St. Park entry/exit point. There should be a perpendicular curb ramp oriented towards Summer St. Park.

*For additional information, please refer to 2006 MAAB Regulations 521 CMR §24 RAMPS-entire section; and 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Ramps*

##### **Parking**

Re-grade and restripe parking lot to provide:

- At least 4 accessible parking spaces that are unobstructed, and with compliant cross slopes in all directions, from access aisles to program points of entry.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> An accessible route from parking spaces to points of entry will connect users to all programs, elements and public amenities within the perimeter of the

- Provide at least one van-accessible parking space adjacent to Buck Field/ Hill's Hill.
- Raise signage so it is mounted at least 60 inches above ground.
- Do not place accessible spaces where there are obstructions, such as speed bumps.
- Place front accessible spaces closest to accessible Arena entrance.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps, and Scoping Requirements for Site Arrival Points*

##### **Point of Entry, Entrance, Sidewalks, Curb Ramps**

Redesign and construct an accessible facility entryway, including sidewalk, crosswalks and curb cuts, to provide accessible entrance and egress at both sets of entrance doors. The sidewalk should extend parallel through entire parking lot, creating a continuous accessible route from parking lot entrance through to all accessible side facilities and including Arena's accessible Emergency Exit door(s).

This can also include reconstruction of Recreation Department Office ramp so that it faces towards front of Arena facility.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps, and Scoping Requirements for Site Arrival Points*

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Sports Complex, including outside programs (Playgrounds, Fields, Team Meeting and Seating Areas, Bleachers, Fitness routes, Vending machines, etc.) and all indoor programs (accessible entrance into and through Arena Lobby, Main Room and Rink programs, elements and amenities).

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## Capital Projects, cont.

### Access to Facility Areas

#### **Assembly Seating**

Provide a minimum of 10 integrated wheelchair spaces, plus a minimum of 10 companion seats adjacent to wheelchair locations. Where applicable, these can be designated aisle seats. These spaces and seats must be integrated within entire spectator seating area and not separated by location, size, type or amenities. Spaces and seats shall:

- Each adjoin an accessible route;
- Provide clear lines of sight over seated and standing spectators, where applicable;
- Companion seating will be adjacent to wheelchair spaces and be provided with same and equal comforts and amenities as that of the general public;
- Have no more than 2 wheelchair spaces shall be shoulder to shoulder in row areas;
- Have wheelchair and companion seating shall be dispersed to provide lines of sight proportionate to the variety offered to the general public; and,
- Have signs showing where the designated rows and seats are located.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA Title II Standards, 28 CFR Part 35.151 New Construction and Alterations for Assembly Areas; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Assembly Areas, Integration, and Assembly Areas and Performance Areas and Signs; General Site and Building Elements for Handrails; and, Special Rooms and Elements for Overlap.*

## Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

### Access to Facility Areas and Elements

#### **Assistive Listening Devices**

Install an assistive listening system within Rink and install signage at Ticket and Equipment Counter stating the availability of assistive listening receivers, upon request. Ensure that there are at least 44 receivers readily available during all Rink/Arena events where audible communication is integral to the space.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Assembly Areas for Assistive Listening Systems*

#### **Service Counters**

Lower service counters at Tickets and Equipment Rental area and at Snack Bar stand so that counter top is no more than 36 inches above finish floor. Alternately, provide lower auxiliary counter adjoining an accessible route. The clear floor space for approach and use may not overlap the general path of travel. A clear turning space of no less than 60" in diameter should be unobstructed and adjoining the accessible route to this element.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Sales and Service; and, Special Rooms, Spaces and Elements for Wheelchair Spaces; and, Built-In Elements for Sales and Service Counters.*

#### **Tables and Benches**

Provide at least one accessible 4-top or other accessible table within the Snack Bar Dining area.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Dining Surfaces and Work Surfaces.*

### **Informational Signs**

Add additional facility informational and rules signage at a lower accessible location.

Have alternate accessible formats of all facility information provided to the public readily available in alternate accessible formats, upon request. Alternate formats include: large Print, Braille, digital files such as text (.txt), and Braille-ready format (.brf).

Provide Braille signage on latch side of both W and M rooms

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping for Directional and Informational Signs*

### **Public Bathrooms**

Review requirements for Toilet Facilities and correct accessibility noncompliance.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Toilet Facilities and Bathing Facilities; and, Scoping Requirements for Toilet Facilities and Bathing Facilities.*

### **Drinking Fountains**

Provide at least one accessible drinking fountain for standing and one for lower use adjoining an accessible route. Clear wheelchair space centered on fountain for forward approach use shall not overlap with adjoining public circulation routes.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Drinking Fountains; and, Plumbing Elements and facilities for Drinking Fountains; and*

*Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Wheelchair Spaces and Clear Floor or Ground Space.*

### **Rink Entrance**

Widen entrance for general public use to at least 48 inches and provide a rubber mat during public use to ensure that threshold does not include level changes on either side.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Entrances and Accessible Routes and Site Arrival Points for Within A Site*

### **Team Seating**

At all areas where teams and groups meet and are provided seating, ensure that at least one integrated wheelchairs seating location is integrated within the area, shoulder to shoulder with team members and peers.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes: Site Arrival Points Within a Site; and Wheelchair Seating; and Clear Floor or Ground Space*

### **Locker and Shower Rooms, Rink**

2. Provide at least one accessible transfer-type or roll-in shower compartment within each locker room.
2. Provide at least one wheelchair seating space adjacent to a bench in each locker room, which adjoins an accessible route.
3. Lower hooks near wheelchair seating locations and adjoining an accessible route so they are no higher than 48 inches above finish floor.
4. Where toilet facilities are provided in locker rooms, provide at least one accessible toilet stall.
5. Where sinks are provided in locker room,

ensure that clear forward approach, accessible reach ranges, and sink depths are provided.  
6. Ensure that all doorway thresholds are level with no more than 1/4-inch height change. If necessary, the level change can be no more than 1/2 inch on either side of threshold, beveled.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Special Rooms, Spaces and Elements for Dressing, Fitting and Locker Rooms and Toilet Facilities and Bathing Facilities; and, Scoping Requirements for Toilet Facilities and Bathing Facilities.*

### **Fixed Penalty Box/Timer's Booth**

Provide accessible route into and through this area; ensure that at least one clear wheelchair seating location is provided, with a turning space of at least 60 inches in diameter.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes: Site Arrival Points Within a Site; and Wheelchair Seating; and Clear Floor or Ground Space*

### **Protruding Objects**

Relocate or provide cane-detectable objects, from floor to bottom of leading edge of protruding object, and with shapes that align pedestrians along general public circulation paths, for the following elements:

- Brochure exhibit near service counter;
- Wall-mounted schedules, Trophy displays;
- Change machine
- 2 drinking fountains
- Wall-mounted Bench seats
- Electric box near Rink entrance

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Building Blocks for Protruding Objects*

### **Tripping Hazards**

- Securely fasten floor mats at Lobby entrance.
- Replace floor mats within Arena circulation paths that are in the general path of travel and/or in the path of travel to emergency exit doors where the edges are higher than 1/2 inch, beveled. Securely fasten all mats.
- Relocate folding board signage and pole signage to be outside the path of travel.
- Relocate Lost & Found box to an area where it does not protrude into the path of travel-- including at doors and rooms where the public receives services.

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Clear Floor or Ground Space.*

### **Signage**

1. Install directional signage at all inaccessible entrance doors and inaccessible emergency exit doors indicating where the nearest accessible entrance and/or exit is located.
2. Install International Sign for Accessibility (ISA) at all accessible entrances and at accessible emergency exit doors and at accessible shower stalls and toilets.
3. Review standards and install ADA-compliant print, tactile and pictogram signage as appropriate at all:
  - Facility directories;
  - Seat and Row designations in spectator area;
  - Permanent Rooms and Spaces

*For additional information, please refer to ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Signs.*



## Florence Park

Florence Park & Playground is a charming, intimate and inclusive neighborhood park and playground.

The playground includes unique elements such as an accessible games table and a zip line in the active recreational zone; and the play area ground surface complies with both accessibility and attenuation safety, slope, and width codes allowing for unrestricted, inclusive accessible circulation throughout all play areas.

The interior of facility needs an accessible route connecting all areas, elements and amenities along at least one route. Team dugouts need wheelchair seating location.

The capital project need is to provide an accessible pedestrian route to facility from nearest public transit stop and streets/sidewalks.

When these actions are completed, this facility will be a model of excellence!

### **Location:**

185 Florence Avenue, adjacent to Dallin Elementary School

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

Florence Park and adjacent sidewalk received renovations and improvements in 2013. Playground construction included: landscaping, installation of zipline, new play equipment, swingsets, installation of rubber surfacing, new benches, game tables, sandbox, signage, fence, retaining wall.<sup>17</sup>

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Gated playground
- Softball Field
- Basketball court
- Open/soccer field
- Seating areas
- Game Table area

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits

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<sup>17</sup> per Florence Avenue Playground Landscape Plan 1/31/13. Limit of Work Line shows that fields, court, team areas not included in scope of this renovation



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

There are 2 highly visible crosswalks with reconstructed sidewalks and curb cuts providing a crossing pathway across Florence Ave. at Waverly St. and Renfrew St. The path of travel at both crosswalks contains noncomplying features, including excessive cross slopes and a noncomplying diagonal curb cut. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

New curb ramps with tactile strips are noncompliant. The diagonal curb ramp opposite the facility at Waverly Street does not have edges parallel to the direction of pedestrian flow and the flared sides are not both contained within the crosswalk. The reciprocal curb cut at this crossing has a slightly excessive level change at bottom.

A new curb cut at Renfrew St. on facility side has excessive cross slopes at the top landing and excessive cross slopes at sidewalk transition panel. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

The exterior approach to Florence Park & Playground includes new sidewalks along Florence Avenue.

Excessive run and cross slopes are found at new sidewalk panels at both the west and east ends.

Eastern end of new sidewalk does not blend to compliant slopes where it meets the sidewalk pedestrian zone in front of the school drive-in area (now used for a Four-Square court). (Photo 3)



Photo 4

### ***Parking***

On-street parking is provided. There is no marked drop-off zone in front of facility. There are no designated HP spaces.

### ***Public Transit Access***

An accessible route needs to be provided that connects with the nearby public transit bus stop at intersection of Florence Ave. and Wachusett Ave..

Crosswalks, curb ramps and sidewalks from this location to the new sidewalk panels are in disrepair, inaccessible, and/or missing. (Photo 4)



Photo 5

### ***Point of Entry***

There are 2 points of entry to facility on Florence Ave. and 1 point of entry from the Dallin School Four-Square court at east side.

The Waverly St. entry is accessible; however, the crosswalk leading to entrance has some noncomplying features at the curb ramp and sidewalk and a gate that lacks a smooth panel or kickplate.

The Renfrew crosswalk entry point includes a walkway with noncomplying slopes. (Photo 5)  
The east entry from school has excessive run slopes.



Photo 6

### ***Gates***

The swinging gate at the Waverly St. entrance now requires a smooth surface on the push side extending the full width of the gate. (Photo 6)

Collapsible bollard at Renfrew entrance does not interfere with accessible width routes.



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

## Access to Facility Areas

### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

### ***Interior Walkways***

An accessible walkway connects the Waverly entrance to the game tables, seating area around playground, and all playground areas, including the swingsets.

A poured rubber "circuit route" within the playground provides an accessible walkway connecting both sidewalk entry points.

A paved walkway also extends from the Renfrew entrance to the playground limits. This walkway has cross slope issues at the sidewalk entry point and run slope issues at the school entry point. An embedded stone border separates the walkways and play zones from the soccer field, presenting some minor level change issues. (Photo 7)

These walkways connect to each other and all play areas via the circuit route; however, neither walkway provides a connection to the other areas of the facility from play areas and entrance. (Photo 9)

There is no accessible route to:

- boundary of field playing areas;
- benches on eastern side of field;
- portable toilet near east side dugout area;
- team benches;
- equipment storage box at home team dugout; and
- basketball court.



Photo 10

### ***Play areas***

The play area ground surfaces at all accessible entry/exit points within the playground, swingset area, and zipline are accessible and safe.

(Photo 10)

The wood fiber surface under the swingsets is currently well maintained with compliant slopes. The poured rubber "circuit route" allows unrestricted and accessible access to the transfer steps on the play structures and to all ground play elements. This route also connects walkways at both entry points.



Photo 11

### ***Play Elements***

The playground has four play zones: a swingset area with 6 swings plus a set with 2 bucket seats; a sandplay zone; a play zone with 3 play structures- one for 2 - 5 year olds and two for 5 - 12 year olds; and a zip-line zone. There is also a games table area with an accessible games table.

Neither composite play structure includes an elevated accessible ramp. Both structures include transfer stations that provide stepped access to over 50% of elevated play components.

The climbing and swinging structures and the distinctive zip line are play elements for children 5+ that do not provide accessible opportunities. (Photo 11)



Photo 12



Photo 13

### ***Fields***

There is a softball diamond and soccer field in the east and central area of facility. The ball field includes 2 dugout areas with a team bench and there is an equipment storage locker at the eastern team area. None of these areas are located along a paved walkway.

### ***Team Seating***

There are no accessible routes to either home or away-team dugouts. There is ample provision of wheelchair seating locations at team benches. (Photo 13)

### ***Court***

There is a basketball court at the NW corner of facility. It is not located along an accessible route. (Photo 14)



Photo 14

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Tables***

There are 2 game tables at the entryway and one is accessible, plus another larger table with clear space provided for a person using a wheeled mobility device. (Photo 15)

All tables are located along an accessible route.



Photo 15



Photo 17



Photo 18



Photo 19

### **Benches**

The 3 benches within entryway and play zone have backrests and no armrests. These are located along an accessible walkway and include clear space for a wheelchair seating location.

The 2 benches on the east side of the park along the field are not connected to an accessible route.

The accessible memorial bench with armrests is located near the Renfrew entrance. This Memorial bench says, "*Dedicated to the memory of Tom Boudreau, Tireless advocate for people with disabilities.*" (Photo 17)

### **Signage**

Signage is provided at both entrance areas. There is clear, firm and level ground space provided for forward approach within 6 feet of signage. However, the signage is not easy to read, and the information is not presented in a format that is clearly laid out to read.

### **Bulletin Board**

The community bulletin board along the Renfrew entrance walkway is installed on a landscaped and curbed area. Horizontal access to visual characters is impeded because signage area is too high.

The forward approach area in front of bulletin board should be maintained free of debris. (Photo 18)

### **Portable Toilet**

Portable toilet has accessible dimensions but is not located along an accessible route. The threshold height is excessive due to a slight tilt of the amenity. (Photo 19)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach and Entry

##### *Crosswalks, Sidewalks and Curb Ramps*

1. Provide an accessible route from the Florence Ave. / Wachusett Ave. intersection to connect with reconstructed sidewalk panels along Florence Ave. (about 55 feet times 3 sidewalk corners plus at least 3 curb ramps).

2. Mitigate noncomplying new sidewalk issues within the Dallin School to facility Safe Routes to Schools route (constructed with approval by Recreation Department in 2007) to the maximum extent possible as follows:

a. -Where reconstructed sidewalk meets existing new sidewalk panels, evaluate and replace existing sidewalk panels that have noncompliant cross slopes. (at least 6 sidewalk panels, 5 x 5 ft.)

b. - Where terrain issues prevent a 5% walkway slope, add ramp handrails and edge protection as necessary. (handrails needed for about 50 feet from Florence/Wachusett corner towards facility)

3. Mitigate noncompliant features at diagonal curb ramp bottom landing and curb face at Florence Ave and Waverly St. and reciprocal curb cut bottom landing. (1 curb ramp plus 2 bottom landing regradings)

4. Mitigate slope compliance issues at top landing and side transition panel for curb ramp at Renfrew entrance. (at least 2 sidewalk panels adjacent to facility)

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design:*

*Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

#### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach and Entry

##### *Points of Entry*

Mitigate cross slope issues at walkway on both sides of Renfrew sidewalk entrance area and at side entry.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Gate**

Install smooth surface hardware or kickplate extending the full width of push side of gate.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Doors, Doorways, and Gates.*

### Access to Facility Areas

#### *Interior Walkways*

1. Provide accessible route connecting playground area to:

- boundary of field playing areas;
- benches on eastern side of field;
- portable toilet near east side dugout area;
- team benches;
- equipment storage box at home team dugout; and
- basketball court.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### **Team Seating Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and both team seating areas of the softball/little league and baseball fields. The accessible route to these amenities can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the fields.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

## **Best Practice Recommendations**

### **Portable Restroom**

Adjust portable toilet level so threshold is as level as possible with ground.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Doors.*

### **Signage**

Lower bulletin board sign mounting section so all signage can be read at between 40 and 60 inches above *walkway* with a forward approach within 5 feet.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping for Signage, Designations; Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*



### **Florence Park ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Provide an accessible route from the nearest public transit stop to the facility.
- 2 Create an accessible interior route to connect all facility areas, elements and amenities.
- 3 Mitigate cross slope issues along sidewalk and add handrails where the running slope exceeds 5 percent.
- 4 Lower bulletin board information mounting area.



## Gibbs Gym

Gibbs Gym is a versatile facility used for many adult and children's programs in addition to event and program rentals. The major capital project need is to provide at least one accessible route within the site between the accessible entrance and the accessible parking spaces, all passenger pick-up/drop-off zones; Tufts St. crosswalks, curb ramps and sidewalks; and the nearby public transit stops at Massachusetts Avenue and at Broadway.

Playground areas on either side of ramped entrance are open to the public when independent school program is not in session. The play areas do not include accessible routes and there are no accessible points of entry into play areas.

### **Location:**

41 Foster Street, Gibbs Center

### **Year Built:**

1928 (3-story school)

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 1994, 1997, and 1999 – Bathrooms remodeled;
- 2010 – Restoration of Gymnasium floor.
- Recent: Parking lot repaved, some sidewalk panels reconstructed. Other: Facility perimeter walkways constructed, leading to at least 2 ramped entrances, 1 at-grade entrance; and three with stairs.

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Two gated play areas
- Parking facility
- Basketball and Four-Square Court
- Ramped entry to basement elevator
- Gymnasium

### **Public Programs:**

- Playgrounds open to public after 3 p.m.
- Arlington Kid Care
- Adult and children fitness, gymnastics
- Facility rental for programs and special events.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

Highly visible crosswalks along Tufts Street leading to the facility ramped entrance and public playgrounds do not lead to accessible sidewalks on facility side. (Photos 1 and 2)

The skewed crosswalk at Broadway and Foster Street has unsafe counter slopes, gaps, cracks and level changes

There are no crosswalks at the Andrew St and Foster Street intersection opposite Arlington Center for the Arts.

#### ***Curb Ramps***

Two curb ramps at crosswalks leading to facility entry points on Tufts Street are not compliant, with excessive cross slopes, gutter-to-ramp transition uneven, and require maintenance. (Photo 3)

Crosswalk at Tufts/Raleigh intersection lacks a curb cut on the Raleigh Street end.

Curb ramp leading to playground and school entrance – and The Ride drop-off location – requires maintenance because it is uneven with excessive level changes at gutter transition.

The Foster St. curb ramp closest to the northeast perimeter walkway has an excessive run slope and uneven level changes at the gutter to ramp transition.



Photo 4

### ***Sidewalks***

Public streets/sidewalks adjacent to facility along Foster St. and Tufts St. contain some new sidewalk panels alongside older infrastructure and do not provide accessible cross slopes, or smooth ground surfaces.

The sidewalks along perimeter of facility on Tufts Street have excessive cross slopes, level changes, gaps and discontinuous surface materials that produce an uneven terrain. (Photo 4)



Photo 5

### ***Public Transit Access***

There are no compliant and accessible sidewalk route connections to accessible entry points of facility from close public transit stops on Mass Ave and on Broadway to either Tufts Street or Foster Street.

### ***Parking Facility***

Parking lot has 69 spaces with 4 accessible spaces. During the daytime, each accessible parking space was being used by a program van. Parking lot ground surface is well paved and accessible.

Parking lot connection to adjacent basketball court has steep slopes and needs maintenance.

There is no accessible route connecting parking lot to facility accessible entrance. (Photo 6)



Photo 6



Photo 7

### ***Points of Entry***

The ramped entrance to the Gym along Tufts Street does not have plain language signage and is easy to miss. (Photo 7)

Public play areas on either side of the ramped Tufts St. entrance lack accessible and compliant points of entry and are not along an accessible route.

Inaccessible entrances lack directional signage.

### ***Gates***

Three gates separate court and play areas from sidewalk. Ground surface under and around playground gates need maintenance or resurfacing to mitigate excessive slope and rough surface issues.

No-step gate to larger playground from Tufts sidewalk opening is too narrow and not along an accessible route. (Photo 8)



Photo 8

### ***Access to Facility Areas***

#### ***Walkways***

Walkway between Tufts St. and Foster St. passing inaccessible program entrance and picnic table area has vertical level changes over 1/2 inch unbeveled on Tufts St. side and curb ramp with excessive run slope (>13%) on Foster Street side. (Photo 9)



Photo 9



Photo 10

### ***Ramp***

A straight ramp is provided to an entrance door with an automatic door opener on Tufts Street, and between the two playgrounds. Ramp run is accessible; however, the sidewalk to ramp transition is not along an accessible route and includes excessive cross slopes at ramp entry. The transition between bottom of ramp and accessible entrance door has excessive level changes and panel protrusions. (Photo 10)

### ***Passenger Drop-Off***

An unmarked passenger drop-off location for The Ride and other accessible transport on Tufts St. is not along an accessible route.

Signage posted on the fence pointing to the ramped entrance provides no clear and useable directional information. (Photo 9)



Photo 11

### ***Playgrounds***

There is no accessible entrance into play areas, and no accessible interior play area route within play area use zone of both playgrounds. (Photo 11)

### ***Play Elements***

There are more than 20 elevated play components in larger play area and at least 25% are not connected by ramps. None of the ground play components are currently along an accessible route. (Photo 12)

The smaller playground has accessible ground elements; however they are not along an accessible route.



Photo 12



Photo 13

### ***Court***

There is a Basketball Court area that includes a 4-square ground game. This court area is well paved with a smooth, level and slip-free ground surface.

There are 4 entry points into the courts. Entry points closest to accessible parking places have excessive cross or run slopes and ground surface is not smooth. (Photo 13)

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Tables***

There are at least 5 inaccessible picnic tables around the perimeter of facility, and one picnic table within the larger play area. These are not located along an accessible route, or providing a clear location for users of wheeled mobility devices to sit. (Photo 14)



Photo 14

#### ***Signage (exterior)***

Gibbs Center has several entrances on all sides of the building; however, at least three entrances are directly connected to Gibbs Gym: one at-grade entrance on Tufts Street, one at-grade entrance on Foster Street, and one inaccessible entrance at the top of the stairway located on the North edge of building. No directional signage is provided at inaccessible entrance to direct those using wheeled mobility devices to the accessible entrances. (Photo 16)

The accessible ramp leading to accessible entrance along Tufts Street needs signage at least as conspicuous as signage at inaccessible entrance. (Photo 7)

Directional signage mounted along fence around perimeter of facility provides unclear information. (Photo 15)



Photo 15



Photo 16

## **Access within Building**

### ***Floor Surfaces***

Inside the vestibule off of Tufts Street, weather mats are not secure and can become a tripping hazard to visitors and staff. (Photo 17)

### ***Ramp***

On level 2, the ramp within the main corridor exceeds the maximum allowable running slope at the top (about 10%). (Photo 18)

### ***Doors***

Throughout the building, several single- and double-leaf doors to spaces that are associated to Gibbs Gym exceed the maximum allowable force required to open them.

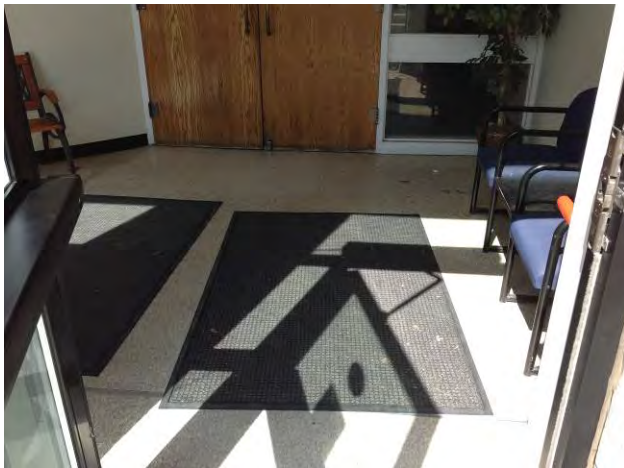


Photo 17



Photo 18



Photo 19



Photo 20

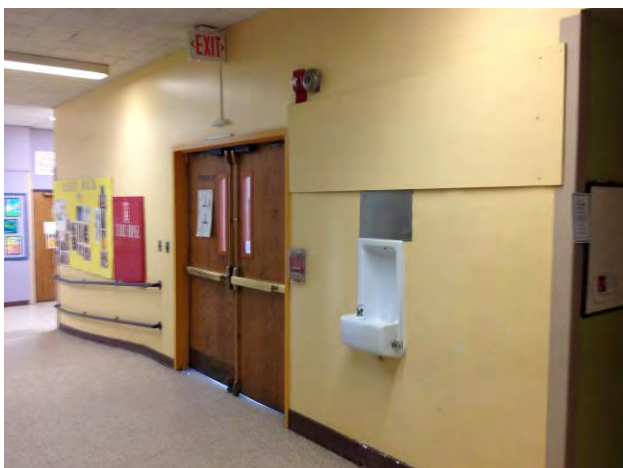


Photo 21

### ***Signage***

Very little designating signage is provided within public areas and not all permanent rooms and spaces are properly identified with ADA-compliant signs. Spaces that are associated to Gibbs Gym are that are not identified with accessible signs include the gymnasium and, most importantly, the egress stairways and egress doors. Although ADA-compliant signs are offered at toilet rooms on level 1, they are incorrectly mounted on the doors.

Within Gibbs Center, directional signage to Gibbs Gym is insufficient and poorly located. On level 1, no directory signs are offered at either entrance. Further, the only indication about the location of Gibbs Gym can on be found on the control panel inside the elevator. On level 2, the only directional sign to Gibbs Gym is found above the doors to the main office of Lesley Ellis School. (Photo 19)

### ***Toilet Rooms***

One set of multi-user toilet rooms (one for each gender) is provided near the elevator on level 1. Although these toilet rooms may have been code-compliant at the time of their installation, they do not meet the minimum requirements of either 1990 ADA Standards or the current accessibility laws and regulations. Toilet rooms are inaccessible because faucets are non-compliant, plumbing underneath lavatories are not protected, mirrors are too high (49" above the floor), paper dispenser are too high (52" above the floor), accessible toilet stall have non-compliant grab bars, and no alarms are provided. (Photo 20)

### ***Drinking Fountains***

One wall-mounted drinking fountain is provided near Gibbs Gym on level 2. Such fixture is not ADA-compliant. (Photo 21)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### **Sidewalks, Curb Ramps**

Construct accessible route between Mass Ave. & Broadway public transit stops to accessible entrance along Tufts St. sidewalk.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes, for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps; also see Site Arrival Points*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### **Accessible Route, Parking Facility**

Reconstruct accessible path from parking facility edge to Tufts Street sidewalk.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### **Accessible route, Ramp to Entrance Door**

Reconstruct entryway from ramp to door to mitigate level changes and slope issues.

*Long-range:* Reconstruct Tufts Street sidewalks on both sides of ramp entry point to mitigate slope and rough surface issues.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### **Play Areas**

a. If play area is altered, replace or replenish ground surface materials at both play areas. Recommend unitary ground surface materials, which will comply with both ASTM and Accessible Routes within Play Area

requirements. Provide level-graded entrance into both play areas, which connects to accessible route through play areas.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Play Areas for Accessible Route, Clear Width, Ground Level, Clear Floor or Ground Space*

b. When new playground structures are chosen, choose at least one composite structure that accommodates various interests and abilities, with accessible elevated opportunities.

#### **Gate**

Replace double-sided gate to play area near parking with a one-latch gate with 48" opening. Add smooth plate or kickplate hardware on latch side. Mitigate ground surface cross slope issues on both sides of gate.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Doors, Doorways, and Gates.*

#### **Signage (exterior)**

Place directional signage, indicating nearest accessible entrance to Recreation Department programs at path access points between sidewalks and all facility inaccessible entrances. Mount all information at a consistent height so bottom text is 40" above ground, and with light and dark contrasting colors.

Place informational signage with International Symbol of Accessibility at path access point to accessible ramp; and, at accessible entrance door. Signage information should match information placed at inaccessible program entrance door.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping*

*Requirements and Communication Elements  
and Features for Signs.*

**Tables**

Provide at least one accessible picnic table along accessible route at play area. Provide at least one accessible picnic table along accessible walkway where summer picnic events take place.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes, also see: Building Blocks: Floor Surfaces, Knee and Toe Clearance*

**Access within Building**

**Floor Surfaces**

Secure all weather mats with industrial-strength double-stick tape. Alternatively, replace them with recessed walk-off mats or grates at all entrances.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Floor Surfaces.*

**Doors**

Create a comprehensive maintenance program and schedule to check and adjust the opening force of all exterior and interior doors. Where not possible, either keep heavy doors open during regular hours or add automatic openers.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Doors, Doorways, and Gates.*

**Signage**

Implement a comprehensive signage plan to

ensure that ADA-compliant signs are installed alongside all doors to identify permanent rooms and spaces within public areas.

Additionally, improve the directional signage to Gibbs Center at all entrances, stairways, and corridors leading to the Gym.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements and Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*

**Toilet Rooms**

Make the following modifications to each multi-user toilet room:

- Replace the faucets of at least one lavatory with ADA-compliant fixtures;
- Protect the plumbing underneath of at least one of the lavatories in each toilet room;
- Lower at least one mirror above a lavatory so that its reflective surface is no higher than 40" above the floor;
- Lower paper dispensers so that their controls are no higher than 48" above the floor;
- Replace grab bars with ADA-compliant accessories inside the accessible toilet stalls;
- Install audible and visible fire alarms.

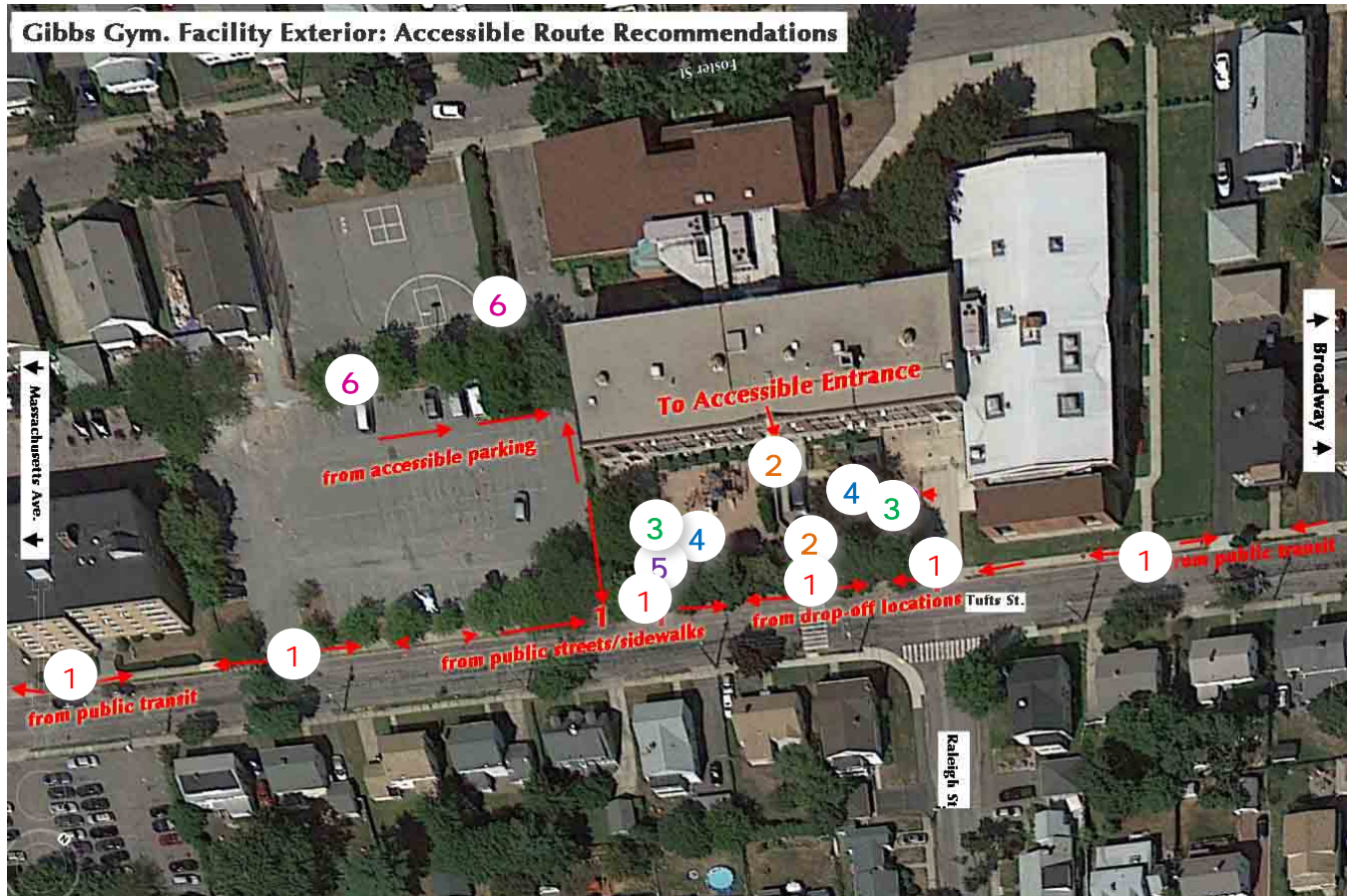
*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Plumbing Elements and Facilities for Toilet and Bathing Rooms.*

**Drinking Fountains**

Replace the existing fixture on level 2 with an ADA-compliant fixture. In the meantime, provide an adjacent water cooler with cups for

equivalent access at the inaccessible drinking fountain.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Plumbing Elements and Facilities for Drinking  
Fountains.*



### Gibbs Gym ADA Recommendations

- 1 Provide accessible route from public transit routes, parking facility accessible spaces, drop-off locations, and sidewalks to accessible facility entrance.
- 2 Mitigate cross slope issues at ramp entrance at sidewalk; and mitigate and tripping hazards and slope issues at bottom of ramp entryway to accessible door.  
Place accessible entrance signage at ramp sidewalk entry point and at accessible door.
- 3 Provide accessible route and accessible entrance into play areas from sidewalk.
- 4 Replace or replenish accessible ground surface materials that will maintain play area accessible cross slope requirements.
- 5 Provide gate opening width of at least 36 inches, and add smooth surface/kickplate hardware on push side.
- 6 Mitigate cross slope and rough surface issues at court entry points.



## Hill's Hill

**Hill's Hill** is one of the facilities of the Sports Complex and is bounded by Summer Street on the North, Buck Field on the West, Minuteman Commuter Bikeway on the South, and Washington Street and Summer Hill Circle on the East. This facility includes a grassy field for various sports and activities and a dog-friendly trail with off-leash hours between 6am and 9am on the steep hill located on the East edge of the site.

An even and stable stone path is provided between the points of entry at Buck Field and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. Parking is provided adjacent to the Ed Burns Arena.

**Location:**

422 Summer Street, Sports Complex

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Grassy Field for various sports and activities

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Crosswalks and Curb Ramps***

Please see Sports Complex, Site Arrival Survey in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for information regarding Crosswalk and Curb Ramps (pp. C- 216 to C- 226).

#### ***Parking***

There is a public parking lot serving three Sports Center facilities (Ed Burns Arena, Buck Field and Hill's Hill), with 75 spaces, including approximately 12 spaces adjacent to the Buck Field/ Hill's Hill facility entrance.

There is no van-accessible parking space with access aisle adjacent to facility. (Photo 1)

#### ***Point of Entry***

There are two points of entry to Hill's Hill- one from the Sports Complex parking area; and the other from the Minuteman Bikeway - a shared-use trail.

The point to entry that includes facility signage is shared with Buck Field. This entrance is uneven and needs maintenance. (Photo 2)

The point of entry from the Bikeway Shared-Use Trail is a well-graded stone dust pathway. (Photo 3)



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Field Playing Areas***

Although a stone path is provided between the points of entry at Buck Field and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway and the edge of the grassy field, it does not extend to the boundary of the soccer field. (Photos 4, 5 and 6)

## **Recommendations**

### **Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense**

#### **Access to Facility Areas**

##### ***Field Playing Areas***

Extend the stone dust path to the center of the soccer field (about 150 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Scoping Requirements for Parking Spaces and Accessible Routes for Site Arrival Points and Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes within a Site.*



### Hill's Hill ADA Recommendations

- 1 Field Playing Areas:** Extend the stone path to the center of the soccer field.



## Hurd Field / Reservoir Trail

**Hurd Field and the Reservoir Trail** are beautiful natural assets and a multi-use unique facility. Thoughtful re-grading of the Trail provides an accessible route around some of the Reservoir, and the accessible trail continues past the Wildlife Habitat Gardens, which was intended to be accessible.<sup>18</sup>

Readily achievable barrier removal issues include the provision of accessible connecting pathways at and through Hurd Field to connect the accessible parking lot to the perimeters of field playing areas, team seating, bleachers, and other amenities.

The major facility interior need is to provide an accessible connection between the back of Hurd Field and the Spillway/Trail area. This will connect the Reservoir trail to the Fields; and provide improved viewing access to the lovely Wildlife Habitat Garden signage and plantings.

### **Location:**

Drake Road, Arlington Reservoir

### **Year Built:**

Reservoir built in 1890's

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

1988 renovations: bridge renovation to Hurd Field, expanded parking, granite benches every 1/4 mile, map<sup>19</sup>.

1997: unspecified accessibility improvements.<sup>20</sup>

2004: Dam Restoration Project included new smooth-deck bridge, new graded pathway covered in pea stone.

2011: Installation of Wildlife Habitat Garden

2012: Hurd Field/Drake parking lot- Parking lot resurfaced and restriped as part of EPA Porous Pavement Project.<sup>21</sup>

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- 2 Parking lots
- 2 Softball/little league fields
- Large field suitable for soccer and lacrosse
- Team dugout areas
- Bleacher area
- Reservoir Trail
- Wildlife Habitat Meadow & Shade Gardens
- Spillway and smooth-top bridge
- Viewing settings

### **Public Programs:** Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Sports fields with nighttime lighting
- Environmental monitoring of EPA Porous Pavement Project
- Passive recreation

<sup>19</sup> info retrieved from  
<http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/ResHistory.html>

<sup>20</sup> info retrieved from  
<http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/ResHistory.html>

<sup>21</sup> See  
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/DE2F0014FC5FC55E85257ABD004FA332>

<sup>18</sup> see 2006 minutes of Reservoir Committee  
[http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/Habitat\\_Garden.htm](http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/Habitat_Garden.htm)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

A two-way crosswalk area located at the intersection of Lowell St. and Westmoreland requires maintenance.

Curb ramp at signed crosswalk leads to inaccessible pedestrian entry point at parking lot fence opening. of facility. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

Apex curb ramps at Lowell St. crosswalk are not wholly contained within crosswalk and lack detectable warnings.

Curb ramp at crosswalk leading to Beach parking lot fence opening leads to highly inaccessible entry walkway. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

At least one accessible route is needed from public streets/sidewalks to entry points of facility.

Sidewalk along Westmoreland perimeter fence needs maintenance. The pedestrian zone is not blended to level and smooth at parking lot entry point. Sidewalk has excessive cross slopes. (Photo 3)

All of the above issues negatively impact pedestrian access from nearby public transit stops. Crosswalks at Massachusetts Ave. @ Paul Revere Road (routes 62, 62/76, near Drake Rd.); are also not supported with accessible pedestrian infrastructure.



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

### ***Parking***

Two parking facilities are provided at two locations within this multi-use facility.

The seasonal public parking lot on Lowell Street is not striped, does not include accessible parking spaces or an accessible pedestrian surface. Water pooling and cross slope issues were found. (Photo 4)

The Drake Road Parking lot is well maintained, and has approximately 62 spaces, with at least 4 accessible spaces. (Photo 5)

There is no accessible route connection between the accessible parking spaces at this lot and the field programs and amenities it supports.

### ***Point of Entry***

The pedestrian entry point at the Lowell/Westmoreland parking facility does not include a level, smooth path to the Reservoir Trail entry. This entry point is marked by off-limit boulders, which are not spaced in a manner that provides adequate accessible width, slope and ground surface materials for rolling pedestrian approach and entrance. (Photo 6)

The two pedestrian entry points at the Hurd Field entrance are from the Drake parking lot and from the back of the field, near the spillway bridge.

Neither of these entry points provide a continuous, level-graded, smooth, firm and slip-free route connected to park facilities.



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

## Access to Facility Areas

### *Interior Walkways*

A stone gravel and dust walking trail was added as part of the 2006 Dam restoration project. While well graded, this path does not yet provide a continuously smooth, level approach and use route to all the facility areas at this multi-use facility.

Secondary trails branching off the trail to Wildlife Garden and in the direction of Hurd Field are excessively steep and are not usable until they can be re-graded to minimal slopes with additional natural wall (or handrail) supports. (Photo 8)

The informal trail between the back of Hurd Field and the Reservoir Trail at the spillway bridge is particularly hazardous and does not provide an accessible connection between the two sections of this multi-use facility. (Photo 9)



Photo 10

### ***Fields***

The Hurd fields are used for adult and student team practices and games and also for recreational activities with groups of young children. Field lights allow these fields to be used after dusk during spring and fall.

There are no accessible path connections between the paved parking lot and perimeter of field playing areas. There are no accessible paths and firm, smooth ground surfaces to and within the team meeting and seating locations. (Photo 10)



Photo 11

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Benches***

Stone benches are provided approximately every 1/4 mile around the graded Reservoir Trail. As these are behind the trail edging on water's side, there is no option for accessible approach and use of viewing locations at this time. (Photo 11)

#### ***Bleachers***

There are no accessible route connections to the spectator bleachers at the larger Hurd Field ball field at this time. These are not accessible bleachers and there is no clear, firm and level ground spaces provided for wheelchair spectator locations. (Photo 12)



Photo 12



Photo 13

### ***Signage***

While the trails are still not through-accessible, a best practice recommendation is to install signage cautioning users about areas where graded trail is steep and presents uneven surface conditions.

The sign explaining the EPA Porous Pavement project at the Drake parking lot; and the Map installation at the Lowell St. Trail entry point do not provide accessible clear ground approach and viewing conditions due to mounting heights (EPA sign) and distance from trail edging (Map). (Photo 13)



Photo 14

### **Access to Amenities**

#### ***Drinking Fountains***

A drinking fountain located near the ball field is not adjoining an accessible approach pathway and is installed too high for accessible reach and use. At the time of the survey, it was not functional. (Photo 14)

#### ***Portable Toilet***

A portable toilet installed at the edge of Hurd Field is not adjoining an accessible path and does not provide an accessible level, firm ground surface for entry. (Photo 15)



Photo 15

#### **Bulletin Boards**

The Bulletin Board at the Trail beginning near the Lowell Parking lot needs to include a clear ground surface approach path. (Photo 6)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalk and Curb Ramps**

At Westmoreland Ave, add an accessible crosswalk with perpendicular ramps crossing Lowell St. near the "A" entrance or at West Court Terrace.

At Drake Rd/ Mass. Ave intersection, add crosswalk and compliant ramps to cross Massachusetts Ave from nearby public transit stop (Massachusetts Ave. @ Paul Revere Road).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalk**

Lowell St: Replace sidewalk panels that have gaps, uneven terrain and cross slopes exceeding 2.08% along the sidewalk adjacent to Lowell St. pedestrian entry points.

Drake Road: Evaluate existing sidewalk panels from and replace panels with cross slopes exceeding 2.08%.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Points of Entry**

Cut and fill, re-grade and ramp the hilly path between the spillway bridge and the back of Hurd Field to provide a connecting secondary path with minimal run and cross slopes. Consider adding small wall or handrail supports where terrain exceeds 5% run slope.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entry

##### **Parking**

Re-grade and restripe Lowell St. lot. Provide at least 2 accessible spaces, 1 should be a van-accessible space.

##### **Points of Entry**

Lowell entry: Modify vehicle off-limits boulder placement to provide a consistently level and smooth approach and entry point onto Reservoir Trail.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

from Drake parking lot: Provide an accessible path connection from accessible parking spaces to connect to perimeter of field playing areas, team seating areas at both ball fields,

bleachers, fountain and portable restroom. Add a clear level ground space of at least 36 inches width and 48 inches length at seating and bleacher area, and in front of fountain controls.

*Long-range:* When back of Hurd Field entry point is made accessible, this accessible path connection needs to extend to that entry point.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site*

### **Field Playing Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and the soccer, softball/little league, and baseball fields (about 1,000 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site*

### **Team Seating Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and both team seating area of the softball/little league and baseball fields. Include a clear floor space for integrated seating. The accessible route to these amenities can adjoin the new accessible walkway to bleachers, portable toilet, drinking fountain, and back entry to Hurd Field.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site.*

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Benches/ Passive Recreation***

Best Practice Recommendation: At one stone bench viewing point, provide a level, clear approach and seating location with at least a 36 in. width and 60-inch depth additional clear viewing space. Remove edging from behind stone bench and reroute it to front of viewing area.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site.*

### **Signage, Bulletin Board**

Create clear level ground surface connections with at least 36 in. width and within at least 5 feet of all posted and installed information along trail and at entry points to facility.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site.*

### **Toilet Room**

Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkway or extend the asphalt walkway to it (about 5 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site.*



### **Hurd Field/Reservoir Trail ADA Recommendations**

- 1** Create an accessible route to connect the public transit pedestrian infrastructure, sidewalks, shared-use path links, and accessible parking facilities with facility entrance areas.
- 2** Create an accessible route to connect the perimeter of field playing areas, team seating, bleacher area, drinking fountain, and portable toilet.
- 3** Extend the accessible route to provide wheelchair seating locations.



## Locke School Playground

The **Locke School Playground** is a lovely and intimate neighborhood park, which was renovated between 2005 and 2006 for accessibility and replacement of amenities.

These excellent renovations increased access at this neighborhood playground with nearly 100% attention to details.

The only accessibility modifications that are needed at this time are to replace or replenish the ground surface materials in the recessed play areas; and most importantly, to provide an accessible entry/exit along the perimeter of the recessed play areas to connect those spaces with all the other accessible features within this lovely park and playground.

**Location:**  
Davis Road

**Year Built:**  
Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2006 – Replacement and relocation of the play equipment, reconstruction of the entrance, repairs to the fencing, seating, and landscaping.<sup>22</sup>

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground, with 4 separate areas
- Sitting area
- On-street HP parking space

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

<sup>22</sup> Information retrieved from Town Annual Report, 2006, p. 56 at [http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2006/Recreation.pdf](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_WebDocs/AnnualReport/2006/Recreation.pdf)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

At the intersection of Paul Revere Road and Davis there are newer corner sidewalk panels and no crosswalk. Corner panels include noncompliant curb ramps. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

Curb ramps at intersection of Paul Revere Road and Davis Ave. are inadequately constructed, with excessive run slopes, no flared sides, and a non-gradual transition to street. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

Sidewalk panels from Paul Revere Road down Davis Ave. to the Park have been sporadically replaced. New and older sidewalk panels have noncomplying cross slopes. (Photo 3)



Photo 4

### ***Parking***

There is 1 designated accessible parallel parking space outside Park entry. There are some excessive cross slopes on sidewalk between parking space and Park entryway. There is no curb ramp along this mid-sidewalk location. (Photo 4)

Information regarding the Town's parking enforcement procedures should be available and referenced at designated parking locations.

### ***Public Transit Access***

Nearest public transit stops west and north of facility are over 500 feet away. Both include hilly terrain; and one includes a large-radius 5-point intersection.

Pedestrian route infrastructure along these routes is outdated.

### ***Point of Entry***

Facility has one entrance. There is a friendly foyer-type presentation leading to a two-step staircase on the left, and a matching accessible ramp to the right. (Photo 5)

Entryway panels have some minor cross slope issues. (Photo 6)



Photo 5



Photo 6



*Photo 7*



*Photo 8*



*Photo 9*

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Interior Walkways***

Facility's interior walkways are well maintained and accessible.

Interior walkways have smooth even surfaces and good slopes. From the entrance to all facility areas, the walkways on one side provide accessible stairs between levels; and the walkways on the other side provide accessible ramps between levels. (Photo 7)

The bottom level walkway provides continuously smooth connections to three areas- a landscaped accessible picnic area; a floor games court; and an accessible bench adjacent to a clear, level space for use by individuals using mobility devices.

The upper level walkway provides a seamless connection onto the exciting large play structure with the elevated accessible route. This route includes handrails, turning space, and access to over 51% of the upper play features.

There is not yet an accessible, level connection between the ground surface of the recessed play areas and the adjacent cement walkways.



Photo 10

### **Play areas**

Facility has 4 play area zones, plus the accessible upper level of the composite play structure.

On the bottom level is a hardtop games court plus 2 recessed areas- a play area with loose fill ground surface materials, and a recessed sandbox for tots.

The top level has another recessed play area with different play types from the bottom level.

There is not yet an accessible, level connection between the ground surface of the recessed play areas and the adjacent cement walkways due to the high borders around the compacted loose fill surfaces. (Photo 10)

The lack of a level entry/exit into the recessed play areas on both levels prevents an accessible route connecting the bottom and top of the slides, despite the walkway ramp connection just out of level reach. (Photo 11)

Although the loose fill ground surface materials may provide adequate impact attenuation conditions, these materials are not currently maintaining minimal slopes and the firmness needed for accessibility conditions. (Photo 12)



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13

### ***Play areas- Elements***

This small neighborhood playground provides a wonderful variety of play types. Ground games at the hardtop games court include hopscotch, four-square and a 4-hole hoop. Ground play components on the composite play structure include interactive panels and climbing types. Elevated accessible games include interactive panels, fort spaces, climbing, sliding by pole and sliding by seat. The recessed area at the top offers spring rockers and a stationary swingset with bucket and regular seats.

When the ground surface is replenished or replaced; and, an accessible ramp or level entry point is added to the perimeter borders of the recessed play areas, this facility will have a readily accessible play area on both levels.



Photo 14

### ***Access to Elements***

#### ***Tables***

Three 4-top tables are provided along an accessible route. One table is accessible.

#### ***Benches***

There are two benches in this facility. One accessible bench with armrests is provided at the bottom level along an accessible route. One accessible bench with armrests is provided at the top level, but it is located within the recessed play area and is not yet connected to an accessible route due to the play area border.



Photo 15

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalk & Curb Ramps**

When future sidewalk alterations are made at the intersection of Davis Road & Paul Revere Road, reconstruct the curb ramps crossing Davis at Paul Revere Road as perpendicular instead of apex curb ramps. .

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps. Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes,*

##### **Sidewalks**

When future sidewalk alterations are made to Davis Road, reevaluate and replace panels to ensure consistent cross slopes to the maximum extent possible.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Playground Accessible entrance**

Add a ramped entry or a level entry to bottom and top recessed playgrounds to connect surfaces within these areas to adjacent interior walkways.

##### **Playground Accessible Route**

a. If loose fill ground surface materials are still used, a high-frequency maintenance policy needs to be implemented to ensure accessible routes in recessed play areas through all seasons.

b. If ground surface materials will be replaced: consider resurfacing all or portions of the recessed play areas with unitary surface materials that are resilient and also provide accessible levels and firmness.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*



## Lussiano Field

**Lussiano Field** is a large neighborhood park located at the Thompson Elementary School between North Union and Everett Streets. This facility includes one playground with slides and swings, one basketball court, and one seasonal spray pool on the north side of the site near the school (commonly known as North Union Spray Pool). On the opposite side, this facility offers a soccer field, a baseball/little league field, and a baseball field.

A small section of this facility, including the spray pool area and at-grade points of entry, is currently closed for renovations. Due to the construction, the walkway that provided an accessible route to the facility is restricted from public use; however, no other means of accessible route has been temporarily provided.

### **Location:**

60 North Union Street, Thompson Elementary School

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2014 – Renovation of spray pool and walkway

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground (rubber)
- Basketball Court
- Spray Pool (seasonal)
- Soccer Field
- Softball/Little League Field
- Baseball Field

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- School activities
- Available for playing field permits
- Off-street parking provided adjacent to Thompson Elementary School after 3pm.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Points of Entry***

Excluding the points of entry which are closed for renovations, this facility has four points of entry: two stairways on Everett Street, a stairway and walkway leading to the playground on North Union Street.

Due to the lack of another option, the walkway leading to the playground on North Union Street has been used by the public as a *de facto* point of entry to this facility. (Photo1)

Additionally, neither of the stairways on North Union and Everett Street have compliant railings on both sides. (Photos 2 and 3)



Photo 4

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Field Playing Areas***

No accessible route is provided to the soccer, softball/little league, and baseball fields.

(Photo 4)

### ***Team Seating Areas***

No accessible route is provided to either team seating areas adjacent to the softball/little league and baseball fields. (Photo 4)

### ***Play Areas***

Due to construction, no accessible route is currently provided to the playground. (Photo 5)



Photo 5

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Tables***

One picnic table is provided near the playground. Although it provides the required knee clearance for wheeled mobility devices, it is not offered along an accessible route.

### ***Portable Toilet***

One portable toilet is designated as accessible and is located along the northeast point of the site near the school. However, this amenity is not accessible because it does not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 6)

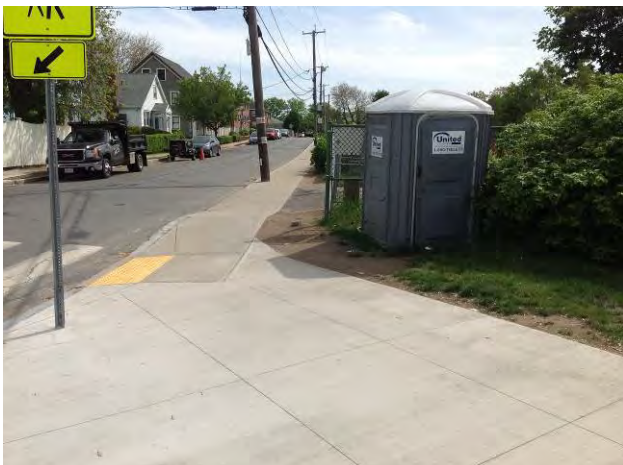


Photo 6

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### **Points of Entry**

While a section of this facility is closed for renovations, provide a temporary accessible point of entry on North Union Street (about 50 feet).

At each stairway leading to the fields, install an ADA-compliant sign directing the public to the accessible point of entry.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*

### Access to Facility Areas

#### **Field Playing Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and the soccer, softball/little league, and baseball fields (about 1,000 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### **Team Seating Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the softball/little league and baseball fields. The accessible route to these amenities can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the fields.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### **Play Areas**

While a section of this facility is closed for renovations, provide a temporary accessible walkway between the point of entry on North Union Street and the playground (about 10 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### Access to Elements

#### **Tables**

Provide an accessible walkway to the picnic table near the playground. The accessible route to this table can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the soccer, softball/little league, and baseball fields.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### **Toilet Room**

Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkway or extend the asphalt walkway to it (about 5 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*



**Lussiano Field ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Points of Entry:** While a section of this facility is closed for renovations, provide a temporary accessible point of entry on North Union Street. At each stairway leading to the fields, install an ADA-compliant sign directing the public to the accessible point of entry.
- 2 Field Playing Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and the soccer, softball/little league, and baseball fields.
- 3 Play Areas:** While a section of this facility is closed for renovations, provide a temporary accessible walkway between the point of entry on North Union Street and the playground.
- 4 Team Seating Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the softball/little league and baseball fields. The accessible route to these amenities can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the fields.
- 5 Tables:** Provide an accessible walkway to the picnic table near the playground. The accessible route to this table can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the soccer, softball/little league, and baseball fields.
- 6 Toilet Room:** Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkway or extend the asphalt



## Magnolia Field

**Magnolia Field** is a large neighborhood park located at the end of Magnolia Street. It is bordered by Herbert Road on the North, Thorndike Street on the East, and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway on the South. This facility includes one playground with separate zones of play structures and one basketball court near Herbert Street. On the West side, this facility offers one soccer field near the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. An enclosed community garden is located near the entry point at Herbert Road.

Limited on-street parking is available on Herbert Road and Thorndike Street; however, additional parking can be found at the nearby Thorndike Field.

**Location:**

42 Herbert Road

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2000 – Major renovations

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground (sand)
- Basketball Court
- Soccer Field

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### ***Crosswalks and Curb Ramps***

One highly visible crosswalk and three curb ramps are provided at the intersection of Magnolia Street and Herbert Road. Neither curb ramp is accessible because they have excessive running slopes (9 % to 12%). (Photo1)

#### ***Sidewalks***

Although the sidewalks along Herbert Road and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway are mostly accessible, the sidewalk along Thorndike Street is in poor condition. Not only are a few sections near trees extremely deteriorated but also the sidewalk has excessive cross slopes. (Photo 2)

All of the issues described above negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Massachusetts Avenue @ Thorndike Street.

#### ***Points of Entry***

This facility has four at-grade points of entry: two on Herbert Road, one on Thorndike Street, and one along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. On Herbert Road and on Thorndike Street, the asphalt walkways at the edge of the sidewalk have excessive slopes (15.5% and 14%, respectively). (Photo 3)

Further, on Herbert Road, the gate that leads to the small play structure is not accessible because it lacks an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate.



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Interior Walkways***

An asphalt walkway is provided between the points of entry and most features in the facility. However, the section of the asphalt walkway near the point of entry at Thorndike Street is in poor condition and obstructed by ground water pooling.

Additionally, between the points of entry at Thorndike Street and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, the asphalt walkway has sections that are too narrow (less than 36" of width) and is obstructed by deteriorated surface and tree canopies that protrude within the necessary vertical clearance needed along the pedestrian path. (Photos 4 and 5)

### ***Court Playing Areas***

Although an asphalt walkway is provided between the points of entry and certain features in this facility, no accessible route is provided between the asphalt walkway and the basketball court. (Photo 6)



*Photo 7*

### ***Field Playing Areas***

Despite the asphalt walkway running parallel to the soccer field, no accessible route is provided to the boundary of the soccer field.

### ***Play Areas***

One large sandy area contains separate zones of play structures. Although an accessible route is provided to the small play structure on Herbert Road and the swingset adjacent to the asphalt walkway, no accessible route is provided to the rest of the playground. (Photos 8 and 9)



*Photo 8*



*Photo 9*



Photo 10

## Access to Elements

### **Tables**

One picnic table is provided near the playground; however, it is not accessible because it does not provide the required knee clearance for wheeled mobility devices and is not provided on an accessible route. (Photo 10)

### **Benches**

Benches are provided within the sandy area where the playground is located. These benches are not accessible because they do not adjoin an accessible route.



Photo 11

### **Bulletin Board**

A bulletin board is provided near the point of entry at Herbert Road; however, a level, clear viewing area is not provided in front of the bulletin board and the adjacent paved circulation route does not yet include continuous accessible conditions. (Photo 11)

### **Community Garden**

A gated community garden is provided near the point of entry at Herbert Road. Although the asphalt walkway connects this amenity to the rest of the facility, no accessible route or features, including an accessible gate, are offered within the garden. (Photo 12)



Photo 12

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Repair curb ramps at the intersection of Magnolia Street and Herbert Road (total of 3 curb ramps).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair the sidewalk along Thorndike Street (about 300 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Points of Entry**

Re-grade a section of the asphalt walkways at the points of entry at Herbert Road and Thorndike Street (about 25 feet).

Additionally, install an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate at the gate on Herbert Road.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Stairways and Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Mitigate the ground water pooling along the asphalt walkway near the point of entry at Thorndike Street or re-grade and re-route the walkway where ground water is not an issue.

Between the points of entry at Thorndike Street and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, repair and widen the asphalt walkway to 48" of width (about 575 feet) and trim trees so that branches over the path are no lower than 80" above the ground.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Court Playing Areas**

Extend the asphalt walkway to the basketball court (about 5 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Field Playing Areas**

Extend the asphalt walkway to the center of the soccer field (about 20 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Play Areas**

Provide new accessible walkways and maintain existing walkways to transfer points within the playground (about 100 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Access to Elements**

#### **Tables**

Replace the picnic table near the playground with an ADA-compliant amenity and extend the asphalt walkway to it (about 75 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### **Benches**

Whenever the surface of the playground is corrected, ensure that benches are also connected to an accessible route.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 3 benches).

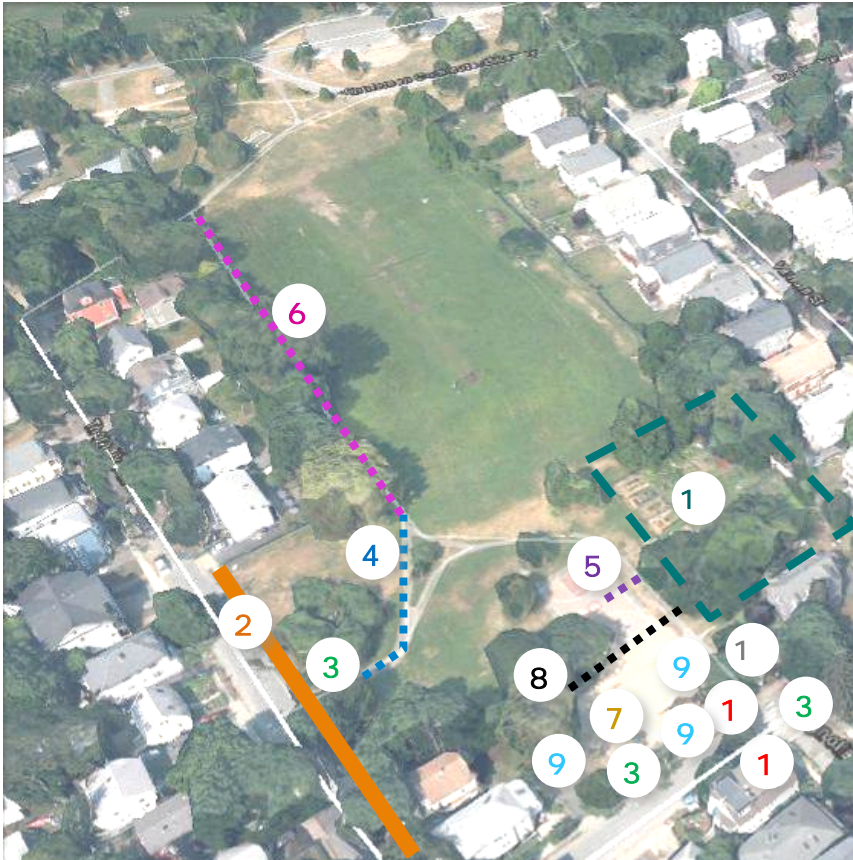
#### **Bulletin Board**

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider extending the asphalt walkway to the bulletin board (about 5 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Community Garden**

Completely re-configure the community garden so that accessible routes as well as planter beds at an accessible height and other features are provided within the garden.



#### **Magnolia Field ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Crosswalks and Curb Ramps:** Repair curb ramps at the intersection of Magnolia St. and Herbert Rd.
- 2 Sidewalks:** Repair the sidewalk along Thorndike St.
- 3 Points of Entry:** Re-grade a section of the asphalt walkways at the points of entry at Herbert Rd. and Thorndike St. Install an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate at the gate on Herbert Rd.
- 4 Interior Walkways:** Mitigate the ground water pooling along the asphalt walkway near the point of entry at Thorndike St. or re-grade and re-route the walkway where ground water is not an issue. Between the points of entry at Thorndike St. and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, repair and widen the asphalt walkway to 48" of width and trim trees so that branches over the path are no lower than 80" above the ground.
- 5 Court Playing Areas:** Extend the asphalt walkway to the basketball court.
- 6 Field Playing Areas:** Extend the asphalt walkway to the center of the soccer field.
- 7 Play Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between points of entry and the playground on the East side of the basketball court. The accessible route to this playground can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the softball/little league and soccer fields.
- 8 Tables:** Replace the picnic table near the playground with an ADA-compliant amenity and extend the asphalt walkway to it.
- 9 Benches:** Whenever the surface of the playground is corrected, ensure that benches are also connected to an accessible route.
- 1 Bulletin Board:** Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider extending the asphalt walkway to the bulletin board.
- 1 Community Garden:** Completely re-configure the community garden so that accessible routes as well as planter beds at an accessible height and other features are provided within the garden.



## McClennen Park

Originally called the Reed's Brook Project, this former landfill was re-acquired by the Town in 1997 and reshaped into a multi-use facility after 2002. When it opened in 2005, it offered a large playground with two age-appropriate play areas; a skateboarding park, walking trail, 2 soccer fields, 1 little league field, picnic areas, and a parking facility.

### **Location:**

Summer St. (Rte. 2A) across from Palmer's Garage, Lexington line.

### **Year Built:** Opened in 2005

Re-acquired by Town from prior landfill in 1995; developed into recreation facility between 2003-2005 as - "Reed's Brook Project"<sup>23</sup>

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

2003-2005: Earth-shaped into multiple fields, Playground, Skateboard Park  
2003: Parking facility<sup>24</sup>

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground
- Skateboard Park
- Picnic Area, landscaped
- Soccer, Football Fields
- Little League Field
- Walking Paths
- Parking Facility, 68 spaces
- Portable Toilet location

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits
- Off-Leash location
- Soccer Training programs

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<sup>23</sup>

[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/public\\_documents/arlingtonma\\_townmeet/2003ATM/Reports03/ReedsBrook](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/public_documents/arlingtonma_townmeet/2003ATM/Reports03/ReedsBrook)

<sup>24</sup> Per

[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_BComm/ABAC/Minutes/2003/02\\_03\\_2003?textPage=1](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_BComm/ABAC/Minutes/2003/02_03_2003?textPage=1)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

Along Rte. 2A (Summer St.), there is a crosswalk at Arthur Road adjacent to facility on the east, a crosswalk at the western-most parking facility entry point, and a crosswalk at the large diameter crossing at Orient Ave., opposite facility perimeter.

Crosswalks are highly visible; however the pedestrian routes along the sidewalk leading into facility have excessive cross slopes where they intersect with the parking facility walkways. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

Curb ramps with tactile strips have good cross slopes and one has a slightly excessive run slope. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

Sidewalks around the first parking facility are in good condition, but the smooth asphalt ground surface materials stop at the crossing between the Skateboard Park and playground. At this crossing and leading further into the grassy areas, the ground surface materials are embedded small cobblestone brick and stone dust. (Photo 3)

Site arrival points include the sidewalks adjacent to all parking facility points of entry and the parking facility walkways. The nearest public transit stop, Forest St. @ Heard Road, is over 2000 feet away. Pedestrian approach and entrance to facility via parking area from neighborhood streets and sidewalks is not continuously accessible.



Photo 4

### **Off-Street Parking**

There are two parking areas separated by a large brick-paver surface speed bump.

(Photo 4)

The first parking area has 48 spaces with two designated as accessible and sharing an access aisle. The walkway from these spaces has excessive cross slopes; and does not provide an accessible route to the points of entry leading to the skateboard park, between the park and the playground, or into the playground. Uneven surfaces, and excessive slopes impede the route from the designated parking spaces to the asphalt walkway into the playground.



Photo 5

The second parking area has 27 parking spaces with two designated as accessible. These spaces share an access aisle, which leads to a walkway with excessive run slopes covered by hard tactile tile surfaces on both sides of the sidewalk adjacent to the access aisle. These sidewalk panels should not be treated as a curb ramp but rather, as a walkway. If the terrain cannot be regraded to maximum 5% slopes, then handrails should be added and this portion of the walkway treated as a ramp (not as a curb ramp).

### **Point of Entry**

From the parking facility, there are four points of entry into different program areas leading into field walkway, picnic area, between skateboard park and the playground, and to sitting area within playground area. Only the walkway into the playground sitting area is accessible (Photo 6)



Photo 6

There is another point of entry to facility off of Berkeley Street with a non-compliant gate.



Photo 7

### **Gates**

The skateboard park has a gated entry that requires a smooth surface on the push side.

The point of entry at the end of Berkeley Street has a gate that is not accessible because it lacks an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate.

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### **Circulation**

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

#### **Interior Walkways**

Walkways include narrow stone dust paths leading to the main interior circulation path around the fields and to Reed's Brook. (Photo 8)

The circulation route around the fields and adjacent to Reed's Brook is uneven. Stone dust paths have eroded and dirt pathways do not hold accessible slopes and are not level. (Photo 9)



Photo 8

The interior walkway leading to the sitting area between the two play areas is the only walkway that provides a continuous accessible route into a facility area; however, this walkway is not connected along an accessible route to the designated accessible parking spaces. (See Photo 5, previous page)



Photo 9



Photo 10

### ***Play areas***

There are packed dirt paths leading to the play areas. These are not accessible. (Photo 10)

The unitary ground surface within the play areas is maintained with good cross slopes and this surface provides accessible routes and accessible entry/exit points to ground play elements.

### ***Play Areas - Playground***

The smaller play area has a proportionate number of accessible ground elements to the number of elevated play elements that can only be reached by transfer steps. The swingset includes bucket seats. (Photo 11)

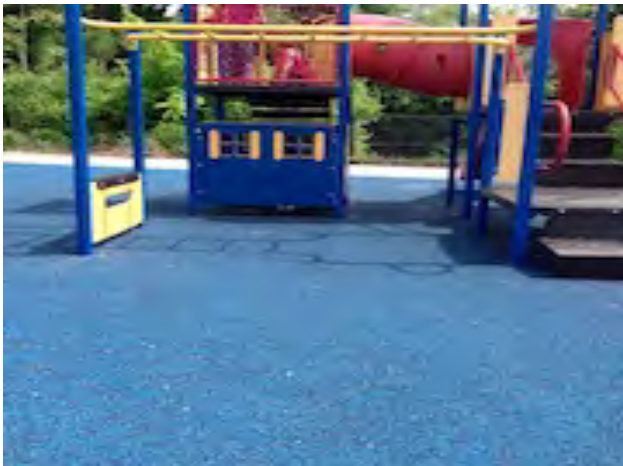


Photo 11

The large play area for older children has at least twenty play components total, and no elevated accessible route. The transfer system requires many steps to reach elevated play components. The trampoline is also accessed by steps or by climbing over the rim, which is a reach of over one foot. There are no accessible elevated routes to reach the mostly elevated play components. (Photo 12)



Photo 12

Although the play area components provide many exciting varieties of play types, plus swing rockers, a wall climbing feature, a trampoline with steps and benches for social and dramatic play underneath the composite structure, there are not a proportionate number of accessible play elements provided for children with various disabilities. With over twenty play elements, there should be an accessible ramp route leading to a minimum 25% of the elevated play components; the transfer steps should lead to another 25%, minimum. Recommendations include provision of at least one additional ground free play type element. Consider adding elements that will welcome and challenge children with cognitive, and sensory disabilities as well.



Photo 13

### ***Fields***

Although the fields on the eastern portion of facility have dirt paths leading to perimeter to fields, these paths require maintenance to be level, firm and slip-free. The middle and western open and soccer fields do not include an accessible route to perimeter of playing areas. (Photo 13)

There is no accessible route to the little league fields playing areas or team seating.



Photo 14

### ***Team Seating Areas***

The home and away team dugouts at the little league team program do not include accessible routes to team seating areas. There also needs to be clear, level and firm location for integrated wheelchair seating location at each team seating area.

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Tables***

There is a large picnic area at the grassy open fields just beyond the playground and skateboard park areas. There are no accessible picnic tables with provision of table and knee clearance for individuals using wheeled mobility devices. Picnic area and tables are not currently connected by any accessible pathway to nearby facility walkways. (Photo 14)



Photo 15



Photo 16

### ***Benches***

There are at least 8 benches with armrests provided along interior walkway. None are accessible because they are not located along an accessible route. None have clear, firm level ground space provided within the concrete pad for integrated wheelchair seating. (Photo 16)

Benches with backrests and armrests are provided along parking facility walkways on either side of points of entry to facility. Although there is a clear space adjacent to the bench near the drinking fountain and adjacent to the skatepark gate, it overlaps with the space needed for a forward approach to the lower fountain amenity and to read the skateboard rules sign. (Photo 17)



Photo 17

### **Access to Amenities**

#### ***Drinking Fountain***

A drinking fountain for standing and lower use is provided adjacent to the skateboard park.

Although this fountain has accessible heights, knee clearance and controls for forward approach, the clear floor space is not smooth and level due to dissimilar ground surfaces on approach. (Photo 17)

There is no accessible route from accessible parking spaces to this fountain and walkway.



Photo 18

#### ***Portable Toilet***

Although the portable toilet provided near the field and picnic area has accessible dimensions, it is not located along an accessible route. (Photo 18)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach and Entry

##### **Parking Facilities**

At both parking areas, reconstruct walkways from accessible spaces to ensure that access aisles adjoin an accessible route wherever there is a walkway leading into facility areas.

If terrain issues constrain a walkway with maximum 5% run slopes, treat walkway as a ramp and add handrails.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and, General Site and Building Elements for Parking, Access Aisles.*

##### **Points of Entry to Fields**

Install continuously accessible walkways leading from parking facility to:

- Fields (westernmost pedestrian access point)
- Fields (middle access point between both parking areas)

##### **Point of Entry to Picnic Area**

At walkway to picnic area (path between skateboard park and playground areas), extend smooth asphalt path to provide accessible route connection to picnic area. Install path linking this walkway to at least one picnic table and to one bench. At picnic table and bench include a level, clear space at either side that is at least four square feet.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes*

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Playground**

At stone bollards into playground area, extend smooth and level asphalt walkway where there is a stone dust path leading into play area. Blend this accessible route entrance with uniform rubber play area ground surface.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping for Play Areas for Location and Entrances*

##### **Fields**

At two soccer fields and little league field, install accessible route to both team bench areas, and to perimeters of playing areas at all fields. At team benches, include a level, clear space at either side of bench that is at least four square feet and leads to field playing area.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes within a Site*

#### Access to Elements and Amenities

##### **Benches**

Expand level clear space at one bench along parking area sidewalks to include an unobstructed clear wheelchair seating location at least 4 square feet.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Building Blocks for Clear Floor or Ground Space for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Positioning.*

***Drinking Fountain***

If drinking fountain will be maintained in working order, ensure that forward approach to fountain include a clear ground space that does not overlap with other uses, such as reading sign and integrated seating location.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Building Blocks for Clear Floor or Ground Space for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Positioning; and, Scoping for Drinking Fountain.*

***Portable Toilet***

Install an accessible path connecting portable toilet to interior walkway.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes within a Site*



### **McClennen Park ADA Recommendations**

- 1** Reconstruct sidewalks and curb ramps adjacent to parking and ensure accessible route to points of entry into program areas.
- 2** Create an accessible route to connect facility program areas to parking and sidewalks.
- 3** Connect all program areas and elements within perimeter of site to at least one accessible interior walkway. At seating areas, install a level firm (not grassy) clear space adjacent to bench at least 3 feet width by 4 feet length.
- 4** Mitigate cross slope issues at sidewalk route into facility and width, firmness and level slopes at interior walkway.
- 5** Add accessible elevated route to at least 25% of elevated play components.
- 6** Install accessible picnic table along accessible route and add clear level ground space for integrated wheelchair seating at bench concrete panel.



## Menotomy Rocks Park

Menotomy Rocks Park is a beautiful and unique facility that is lovingly cared for by creative and concerned stakeholders, notably, the Friends of MRP in collaboration with the Town's Recreation Department and DPW.

The 2007 renovations included creation of a mostly accessible trail around portions of the pond closest to the main entrance. This trail branches off to the Back Hill Playground, where accessible tables and benches are located, along with the recent lovely Woodhenge installation.

Renovations included the thoughtful creation of at least 1 viewing platform with a well-graded shelf for accessible viewing and fishing.

The major accessibility capital project at this time is to provide accessible exterior crosswalk and sidewalk infrastructure at the main Jason St. entrance. Interior accessible connections are also needed at developed areas and seating elements of facility.

### **Location:**

Main entrance on Jason St. Limited on-street parking.

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

2007: new Pond Loop pathways, improved access to the edge of the pond, regrading for south field, repairs to the Jason Street entry and stone wall design and reinforcements.<sup>25</sup>

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- 2 Open Green spaces
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Woodhenge
- Hill's Pond Trail
- Wooded Trail
- Pond Viewing Areas
- Seating areas

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Wood, Marsh and Pond Trails
- HS Cross Country
- Outdoor Theatre & Arts Events
- Summer Camp
- Fishing
- Environmental monitoring

<sup>25</sup> Information retrieved from 2007 Town Annual Report, Recreation Division, p. 62; and Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park website, Summer 2007 News, at <http://www.friendsofmenotomy.org/news/2007/06/15/park-news-summer-2007/>



Photo 1

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

A crosswalk is provided at the Jason Street Entry. It lacks curb ramps on both ends. Striping is not highly visible. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

Curb ramps are missing at junction of Brantwood Rd & Jason St. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

Sidewalk on facility side has consistently excessive cross slopes. (Photo 3)

#### ***Public Transit Access***

Public transit stops along Mass Ave. are at least a 1/2 mile from entrance. Public transit stops along Pleasant St. are at least 1/3 mile from entrance. Pedestrian routes from these stops are mainly old infrastructure.



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

A designated accessible parking space is located close to facility entrance. The sidewalk and ramped driveway adjoining this space do not have accessible run or cross slopes. (Photo 4)

### ***Points of Entry***

The Town maintains at least 4 entrances to the Park at Jason St., Spring St., Ottawa/High Haith and Churchill Ave.<sup>26</sup>

The main public entrance is the renovated Jason Street entrance. This includes 2 entrances separated by a 4-point stone post. The wide entrance is large enough for maintenance vehicles to pass through and the smaller entrance is adequate width. Although this entry area is well maintained, this entrance is not connected to accessible pedestrian routes at the crosswalk area, curb ramps and sidewalk. (Photo 5)

Other entry points are informal, less developed and do not trigger current Title II requirements; therefore IHCD team did not inspect accessibility conditions.

However, we would like to note a suggestion for the Ottawa/High Haith entry, which transitions to the wooded path with 1 sidewalk panel on a gravel bed, just beyond a driveway: Safety and accessibility at the transition between the public sidewalks and the wooded trail can be readily improved with the addition of a transitional panel or ramp equal to the width of the stamped trail at this entry point.

### ***Parking***

<sup>26</sup> These are winter trash barrel locations.



Photo 6

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

### ***Interior Walkways***

Graded paths and trails provide an accessible trail from the Jason St. entrance to Hill's Pond, with a secondary trail leading to the developed areas at the side of the Back Hill. These include the playground, picnic area and Woodhenge.

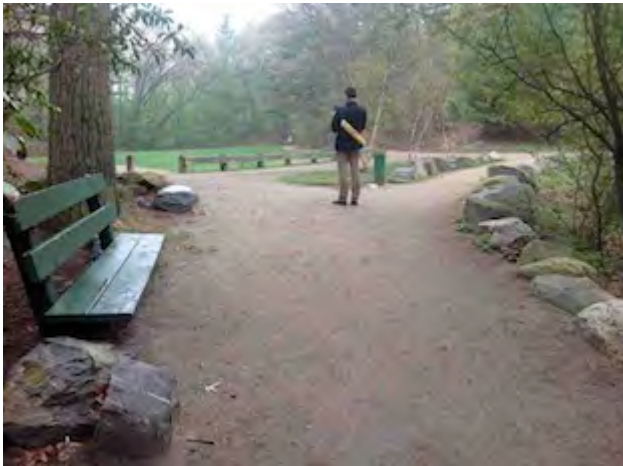


Photo 7

The lovely accessible pond side viewing area nearest to the Jason St. entrance includes stone steps leading to the water's edge, similar to the other 3 landscaped viewing areas provided around Hill's Pond. (Photo 6)

The branching-off path to the playground is well graded, with consistent passing and turning widths (5 ft.). (Photo 7)

There needs to be at least 1 accessible pathway connection from trail to the picnic area's 2 accessible tables; and in addition, a connection needs to be established between trail and the Woodhenge circle. (Photo 8)



Photo 8



Photo 9

## Access to Facility Areas, cont.

### Play areas

The bordered playground is surfaced with loose-fill ground surface materials.

These surface materials may fulfill impact-attenuating requirements, but they are not accessible because ground surface materials show excessive cross slopes and depressions near and within accessible ground play elements. (Photo 9)

The playground border is a barrier to accessible entry into the play area because it has level changes of between 2 - 8 inches above the trail and there is currently no accessible entry point into the play area. (Photo 10)



Photo 10

### Play areas - elements

This bordered playground area accommodates a swingset with 50% accessible swings and a large interconnected play structure. There are 4 types of ground play elements and at least 10 elevated elements providing a variety of challenges, including seated slides, pole slides, fort play, interactive panels, swinging. and swaying.

A transfer system provides stepped connection to at least 50% elevated elements, and there is no accessible (ramped) elevated route. (Photo 11)



Photo 11



Photo 12

### ***Unique Installation: Woodhenge***

The Council Ring, aka Woodhenge, was installed in 2012 after approval from the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission. This installation destination is not yet accessible because there is a gravel and dirt ditch spelling out the circle. (Photo 12)

### ***Fields***

At this Park, there are 2 open fields that are beautiful locations used for informal field games in addition to summer camp and adult programming and community-wide special events. Programming includes adult Tai Chi classes, live theatre (Shakespeare in the Park) and Arts Installations. (Photo 13)

Fields were well maintained and included some bench locations. There are no inscribed ball fields or other designated field sport areas.



Photo 13

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Tables***

There are two accessible picnic tables provided. These thoughtful tables need to be connected to an accessible path branching off the main graded trail. (Photo 14)



Photo 14



Photo 15

### **Benches**

There are approximately 11 benches scattered in groups of 2 or more around the graded pond trail, including benches with armrests outside the playground border and 1 new bench at Jason Field. Many provide adequate clear space for integrated shoulder to shoulder seating with people using mobility devices.

Some wooden benches are not highly visible along the wooded portion of the accessible trail; others, painted green, are easily spotted and along the well graded trail. A best practice recommendation is to repaint faded wooden benches with a color that contrasts with the natural environment.

(Photo 15)



Photo 16

### **Signage**

Signage denoting Dog Walk Hours and rules are posted too high proportionate to the approach and viewing distance provided along the trails. These signs should be posted consistently at a lower height for ease in viewing.

Cautionary signage in the wetlands section of the graded trail is mounted beyond the rocky border and obstructed by vines. Safety and information signage along trail should be inventoried and reposted where it may be beyond viewing distance or obstructed by natural growth. (Photo 17)



Photo 17



Photo 18

## **Access to Amenities**

### ***Drinking Fountains***

A drinking fountain at the fork in the path may not be in working order. The spout height is accessible and a clear approach and use space is provided. (Photo 18)

### ***Recycling Receptacles***

The recycling container installed at the Jason St. entrance is not accessible because it is out of reach ranges and a forward or parallel approach to the bin handle is not available.



Photo 19

### ***Bulletin Boards***

A busy community bulletin board with tent protection is installed at the Jason St. entry. No municipal information was noticed. A clear ground surface approach is provided and notices between 40 - 70 inches above the ground can be read.

### ***Bike Racks***

Bike racks are provided at the Jason St. entry and do not obstruct any accessible path of travel.



Photo 20

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalk**

Add a compliant parallel curb ramp on facility end of crosswalk on Jason Rd. and a blended (not apex) reciprocal curb ramp at northern corner of Brantwood Rd. Restripe crosswalk to ensure high visibility.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Curb Ramp**

Add "T"-intersection curb ramp at southern corner of Brantwood Rd. to provide accessible pedestrian route to Park from western direction.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalks**

Reconstruct Jason St. from Mass Ave. to Spring St. to create an accessible pedestrian route from public transit stops (routes 67, 77, 79) along Massachusetts Ave

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Parking**

If roadway profile grade crowns at 5% or less, reconstruct sidewalk panels from parking sign to facility entry way with compliant run and cross slopes. If topological issues make walkway run slope compliance infeasible, seek a MAAB Variance for the noncomplying run slopes and replace sidewalk panels from sign to edge of narrow entrance with least possible cross and run slopes.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Picnic Area**

Add an accessible path off the trail to provide connection and circulation at both accessible picnic tables.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for within a Site.*

##### **Playground Accessible entry/exit**

Provide a ramped entry or a level entry to recessed playground that is connected to accessible interior walkways.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

**Best Practice Recommendation:**

At the back corner of the playground border, attention should be given to maintaining a firm, level ground surface of at least 60" to provide a turning space just before the inaccessible wooded trail begins.

**Playground Accessible Route**

a. If only loose fill ground surface materials are used, implement a high-frequency maintenance program to ensure accessibility of ground surface materials through all seasons.

b. If ground surface materials will be replaced: consider adding unitary surface materials within the playground areas to provide accessible routes and clear ground spaces to all entry/exit points of ground play elements, including swingsets, play structure transfer station, and ground play elements.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

**Woodhenge Installation**

Provide an accessible route linking this installation to graded trails.

**Best Practice Recommendation:** Designate a removable log(s) section to readily provide accessible seating location as needed for persons using mobility devices. Removable section should provide at least 32 inches clear, level width within circle.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear*

**Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping**

**Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site**

**Interior Trails- Woods**

**Best Practice Recommendations:** When designing future trail development, considerations regarding grade, width, cross-slope, surface of trails, and protruding objects should match, to the maximum extent, requirements for accessible routes and protruding objects.

Additional edge protection might be considered in places where the trail border is slippery; in particular, at the trail near the wetlands area.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Route for Accessible Routes and Walking Surfaces; and Building Blocks for Protruding Objects; and, Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

**Access to Elements**

**Tables**

Provide an accessible route linking both accessible picnic tables to graded trail.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

**Benches**

**Best Practices Recommendations:**

Provide an accessible route linking bench area near wetlands to graded trail.

Consider repainting faded benches near playground with a contrasting color.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### **Signage**

Information signage: Review signage requirements and reinstall as necessary.

Best Practices Recommendations:  
Inventory safety signage along trail and relocate where visibility may be obstructed.

Consider adding Mapping signage near the playground/picnic area, since the woods and unpaved areas are so close to these family-friendly locations.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping for Signage, Designations; Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*

*[Note: no satellite image provided to illustrate Menotomy Parks Recommendations due to thick tree cover]*



## Ottoson Field / Crusher Lot

Ottoson Field and Crusher lot provides a recreational facility with supporting parking facilities that serves the adjacent school outdoor recreation programs in addition to being available for general public use after 3 p.m. on weekdays.

This field is not currently accessible because there is no accessible approach or entrance point from the parking facility onto the field.

Most of the needed accessibility modifications for this field facility and parking lot are readily achievable and can transform this field and parking lot into an accessible public asset.

The major capital project will involve the construction of a continuously accessible sidewalk from Appleton Place (and adjoining site facilities, including the lower Ottoson Field) to the upper Ottoson Field and amenities.

### **Location:**

Adjacent to Ottoson Middle School on Acton St.

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Parking facility
- Ball field, open field
- Team Dugouts
- Bike racks/seating strip
- Spectator area
- Entry crossing between school and park

### **Public Programs:**

- School recreation programs
- Field Permits available
- Parking facility available to public after 3 p.m.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

Crosswalk connections and sidewalk alterations affected accessibility to the lower Ottoson School field and entrances; however, there are no marked crosswalks between the upper parking lot accessible spaces or the school entrance drop-off area and the adjoining field. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

A curb ramp at the drop-off entrance located along Acton Rd, and connected to the parking facility's ramp route has adequate slopes but lacks visual contrast, such as tactile strips, to provide cues for pedestrians and vehicles. (see Photo 1)

There is no curb ramp provided at the field entry walkway at the edge of the parking facility. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

There is no sidewalk provided on the east side of Acton St. from Appleton Pl., and no sidewalk provided on facility side from the Benjamin Road pedestrian sidewalks into the parking lot.<sup>27</sup> (Photo 3)

<sup>27</sup> The recent sidewalk alterations along Acton St. and at the corner of Appleton Pl., affected accessibility at the school entrances and affiliated outdoor facilities. The following scoping requirements applied to that project: At least one accessible route within the boundary of sites must connect accessible building entrances to a. accessible parking and passenger loading zones; b. public transportation stops; and c. public streets or sidewalks.



Photo 4

### ***Parking***

There are approximately 56 parking spaces provided at the parking facility adjacent to this field. Three spaces with two marked access aisles are designated as accessible with ground markings and 2 signs posted on building. A walkway leading to a ramp leads users to the school entry/drop off location. This ramp is not connected via any accessible route to the field. The set of accessible spaces is not connected to any accessible curb ramps or route to approach and use any portion of the field. (Photo 4)



Photo 5

During the field survey<sup>28</sup>, this parking lot was active with vehicles searching for a parking spot. At some point, all cross hatched areas were filled with parked cars. Both access aisles were also in use, although the accessible spaces were not. (Photo 5)

Although there are the required number of van and standard accessible parking spaces provided, they do not measure up to the individual space requirements, nor does the total width for this configuration measure up to the minimal total space required. (Photo 6)



Photo 6

### ***Public Transit Access***

A public transit stop is located approximately 1/4 mile north of facility (Massachusetts Ave @ Appleton St., routes 77, 79). Sidewalk improvements along Acton Street did not result in the provision of accessible approach and entry points to this field facility.

<sup>28</sup> between 10 - noon on a Tuesday in May



Photo 7

### ***Points of Entry***

Field has 2 points of entry and both are inaccessible.

The stairway opposite the school entrance is not adjoining an access route or any sidewalk; and is in disrepair. There is no matching accessible ramp provided. (Photo 7)

The entry to field from accessible parking spaces includes a curb at the corner followed by a paved path with excessive cross and run slopes. (Photo 8)



Photo 8

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

#### ***Interior Walkways***

There is one interior walkway between the parking facility and the front strip of the field.

This walkway has an uneven surface, excessive cross and run slopes, and has a bike rack located at the side that is closest to the accessible parking spaces, obstructing the general public's path of travel onto the field from the parking lot. (Photo 9)

This walkway does not connect to at least one accessible interior walkway that provides a firm, level, smooth (non-grassy) continuous route connecting to the perimeter of the field playing areas, the dugout areas, team seating locations, the portable toilet, and the spectator seating along the fence.



Photo 9



Photo 10

### ***Stairways***

A set of stairs furnishes the access point opposite the school entrance. Stairs lack handrails and are in disrepair. (Photo 10)

### ***Fields***

The open field and the baseball diamond areas are grassy and well maintained. Neither area provides an accessible route from the walkway or other areas to the perimeter of the playing fields.

### ***Team Areas***

There are no accessible or smooth and level-graded routes to team dugout and seating areas; nor are there accessible routes between the two dugouts and team seating.

The dugout areas are carefully constructed, and include benches, a 4-foot clear aisle in front of benches, and fence-opening entrances at front and back. The back entrances are particularly rocky and uneven at both dugouts, and the connecting path between them is ungraded and uneven.

The back openings provide sufficient space for accessible turning spaces.



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Seating***

Seating with stacked crates and a top is provided at the walkway with bike racks; and, also along the field fence near the portable toilet.

Neither seating area is currently along an accessible route.

The spectator area also needs least a 48-inch length clear ground space that is firm and level alongside either side of this seating element for integrated participation by persons using mobility devices. (Photo 13)

## **Access to Amenities**

### ***Portable Toilet***

A portable toilet is available to the public and located near the staircase entry point. The ground is well-graded and this is a good location for this amenity. (Photo 14)

However, a modification to ground conditions, such as the addition of a paved or packed dirt path, is needed to provide a level and smooth approach to the toilet entrance and door,. This path should adjoin an accessible circulation route.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance,

##### **Public Transit Access**

Construct accessible pedestrian infrastructure, including accessible sidewalks, ramps and crosswalk support where needed, from the Massachusetts Ave @ Appleton St stop to the accessible field entry point. This route should connect with the reconstructed Acton St. sidewalks and with all accessible school building entrances and accessible outdoor facilities, including the accessible parking spaces at the upper field parking lot (Crusher lot).

If this capital project needs to be completed in stages, the first priority is to provide an accessible sidewalk route from Appleton Pl./Acton St. intersection to all accessible school entrances, ramps, and outdoor facility pedestrian access points along at least one accessible route around and within the perimeter of this site.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach and Entry

##### **Sidewalks, Curb Ramps**

At sidewalk strip between parking and facility, re-grade walkway to 1:20 maximum slope and add a perpendicular curb ramp. (about 25 feet plus ramp)

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Parking**

1. Reconfigure and restripe lot, sectioning off a minimum-width of 396 inches, total, for accessible spaces and access aisles. Restriping should ensure that 2 standard accessible spaces are striped with at least 72-inch widths plus access aisle of at least 60 inches (can be shared); and that the van-accessible space includes at least 96 inches plus an adjoining access aisle of 96 inches.

Best practice recommendation: provide access aisle on passenger side of accessible van.

Best practice recommendation: Provide public information on website and in public brochures informing the general public about the need for access aisles to remain clear of vehicles.

2. Evaluate the walkway and ramp conditions at the foot of the accessible spaces and mitigate excessive cross slopes, gaps, and uneven conditions at this walkway in front of the ramp.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design:*

*Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes,*

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Access Design: Parking (2010 Standards– 208 & 502)*

### **Point of Entry**

1, see Recommendations for Approach and Entry, *Sidewalks, Curb Ramps*

2, Repair staircase and add accessible handrails and a level top landing.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: General Site and Building Elements for Stairways*

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### **Interior Walkways**

Provide an accessible route connected from the accessible point of entry to fields that connects and links the following along at least 1 route:

- The perimeter of the field playing areas
- Both dugouts
- Both team seating areas
- Portable toilet entrance, and
- All spectator furnishings.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### **Stairways**

Provide continuous handrails on both sides of staircase.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: General Site and Building Elements for Stairways*

See Recommendations for *Point of Entry*,

### **Fields**

See Recommendations for Access to Facility Areas, *Interior Walkways*

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### **Team Areas**

1. See Recommendations for Access to Facility Areas, *Interior Walkway*

2. At both dugout and team seating areas, provide an accessible turning space at rear dugout opening that is at least 60 in. diameter, along the accessible interior walkway route, and with a cleared ground surface that is not grassy, firm, slip-free and level.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space and Turning Space; and, Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

## **Access to Amenities**

### **Seating**

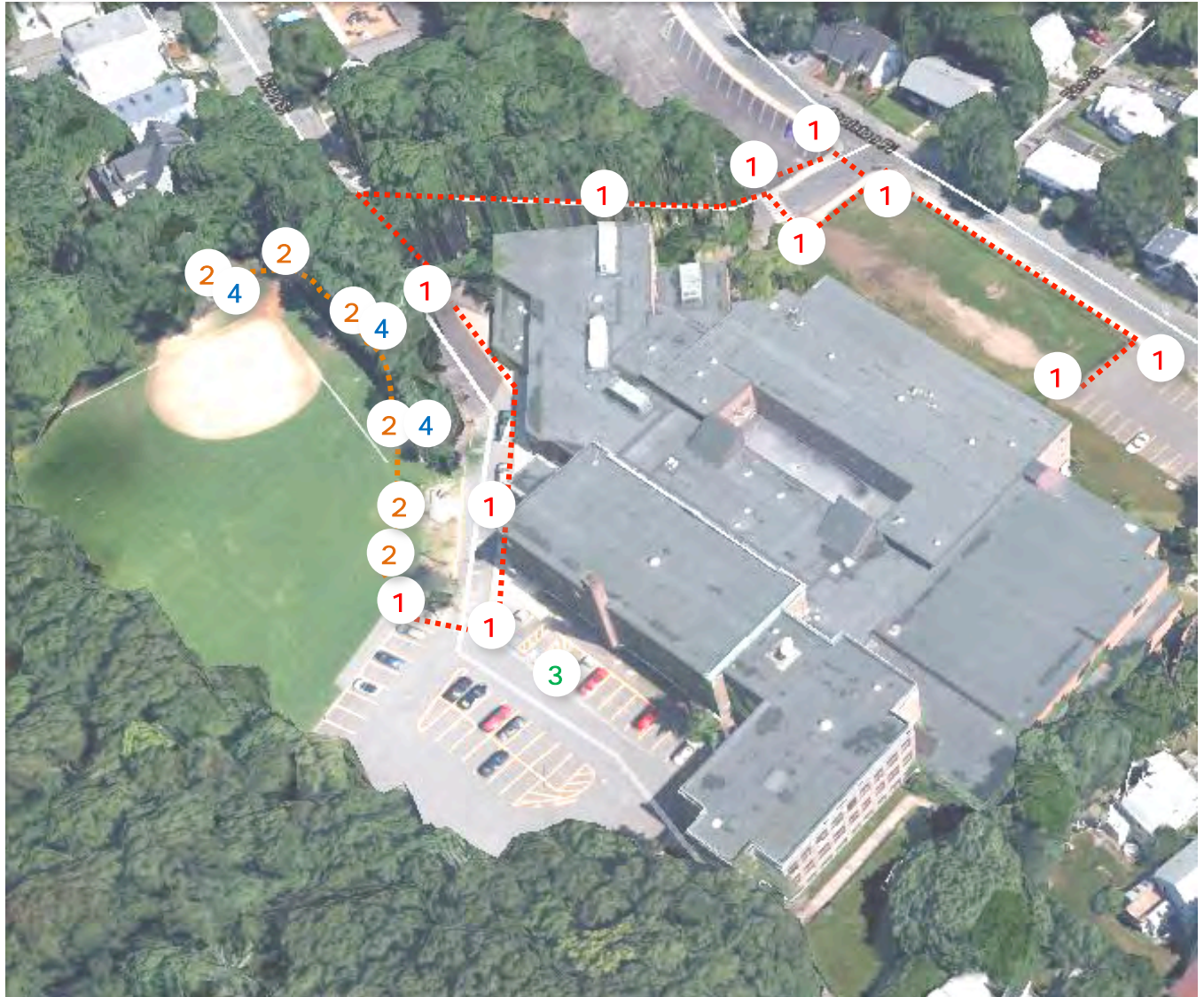
1. See Recommendations for Access to Facility Areas, *Interior Walkway*

2. At either side of spectator seating area, ensure that a clear ground space with minimum 36 inches width and 48 inches length is available for integrated wheelchair seating. This clear area should adjoin, and not overlap, with accessible route,

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### **Portable Toilet**

See Recommendations for Access to Facility Areas, *Interior Walkway*.



### **Ottoson Field / Crusher Lot ADA Recommendations**

- 1** Create at least one accessible route within the boundary of site that connects accessible building entrances and accessible outdoor facilities to: a. an accessible parking and passenger loading zones; b. public transit; and c. public streets or sidewalks.
- 2** Create an accessible route to connect facility areas, elements and amenities with an accessible interior walkway.
- 3** Reconfigure and restripe parking lot.
- 4** Integrate wheelchair seating space at team benches and spectator area.



## Parallel Park

Parallel Park is a lovely neighborhood park with accessible ground play equipment, accessible circulation paths, bench and picnic table amenities, a court and a grassy area for play.

Alongside sidewalk repair issues there are a few recommendations that are readily achievable to make this neighborhood gem accessible and inclusive:

1. The circulation path should branch off level-graded to at least 1 side of the court and at least 1 accessible table and bench.
2. The ground surface materials in the play areas should be refreshed or maintained to hold accessible slopes and firmness; or, the ground materials should be replaced with surface materials that can be maintained to provide safety attenuation and accessibility together.
3. Recessed play areas need to include a level entry/exit connection to the adjacent walkways.

### **Location:**

Medford Street at Parallel Street

### **Year Built:**

Approximately 1978, US Dept. of Interior Land & Water Conservation Funding

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

New play structures, benches, picnic tables, and gates

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground with 2 play areas
- Basketball court
- Open field
- Picnic nook
- Circulation path
- Exterior street facilities

### **Public Programs:**

Open to public from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Playground
- Basketball Court and field access



Photo 1

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

New and compliant curb curbs were recently added at the crosswalk area, intersection of Medford St. and Parallel St. (Photo 1)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

New curb ramps are accessible. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

Sidewalk along perimeter of park requires maintenance and has excessive cross slopes.(Photo 3)

#### ***Parking***

Limited on-street parking available, not surveyed.

#### ***Public Transit Access***

A nearby public transit stop is right outside facility fence- Medford St, @ Hayes St.– Medford Line (Route 80).

The Town recently reconstructed nearby curb ramps at the intersection of Medford St. and Hayes St. in addition to the intersection of Parallel & Medford, improving the pedestrian infrastructure significantly.



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

### ***Point of Entry***

Entrance has 2 fences. Sidewalk apron is cracked and uneven and sidewalk pavement has excessive cross slopes. The entrance needs maintenance. (Photo 4)

### ***Gates***

Gates were installed as compliant prior to 2012; however, the ADA 2010 Standards now require that swinging gate surfaces within 10 inches of the ground include a smooth surface on the push side extending the full width of the gate. When future renovations occur at this facility a smooth surface should be added to gate hardware.

Ground surface under the narrower gate is uneven and needs maintenance. (Photo 5)



Photo 5

### ***Access to Facility Areas***

#### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is needed to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

### ***Interior Walkways***

Walkways circulate through the park and around the play areas. The walkways are well graded, smooth and have compliant widths. However, they do not provide a route to all the park features, such as an accessible approach and entry into the play areas, to either side of the court, and to the benches and picnic tables. (Photo 6)



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

## **Access to Facility Areas, cont.**

### ***Play areas***

The 2 play areas are well designed and include accessible ground play components and transfer systems on the 2 composite play structures.

However, the border around entire perimeter of all play areas prevents an accessible approach and entry into and through the play areas. (Photo 7)

The loose fill ground surface that covers the play areas will require frequent maintenance to ensure an accessible route to all entry/exit points of accessible play components.

At this time, the loose fill materials are showing excessive cross slopes and holes. These uneven conditions prevent smooth, accessible and unrestricted circulation around the play structures. (Photo 8)

### **Play areas- elements**

The play area includes 2 play areas. Each has a composite play structure that provides transfer steps leading to a majority of elevated components by step. There are also at least 4 types of ground play elements (see-saw, 2 types of moveable structures, a platform and swing rockers). Play structures do not include accessible elevated routes (ramps).

The stationery swing set has 3 swings and 1 bucket seat.



Photo 10

### ***Courts***

A basketball court is not connected by accessible route to the other areas and elements of the facility, including the entrance. (Photo 10)

Slope measurements taken to one side of the court indicate that it may be feasible to add a graded walkway connecting at least one side of the court to the play area, circulation routes, benches and tables, and entrance gate.



Photo 11

### ***Fields***

This lovely neighborhood park also has a grassy area between the landscaped play areas and seating amenities and the court.

There are no compliance issues requiring attention for the open grassy area. It appears feasible to provide at least one skinned field path leading to one side of the court from the paved circulation walkway. (Photo 11)

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Tables***

Two picnic tables are provided. At least one should provide extended table length and a clear, level and firm ground space for integrated wheelchair seating.

Although tables are not along an accessible route, it appears feasible to add a connecting branch to the paved circulation route to provide an accessible path to the tables.



Photo 12



*Photo 13*

### ***Benches***

A total of 7 benches are provided, located around the play areas and along the paved circulation pathway. Benches are not connected by accessible route because they are separated from the play areas and circulation routes by close landscaped and paved borders.

At least one bench should be adjacent to a clear space that is level, firm and at least 32 inches wide and 48 inches in length, allowing for integrated shoulder to shoulder wheelchair seating. (Photo 13)

At least 1 bench should be provided that has a seat width between 20-24 inches and a perpendicular back support extending at least 18 inches above seat.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach and Entry

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair cracked sidewalk panels along Parallel St.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Point of Entry**

Repair cracked sidewalk panels at entry gate.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Provide an accessible route connected from the accessible entry gate that connects and links the following along at least 1 route:

- at least one picnic table
- at least one bench with side clear space
- entry points to each play area
- at least one side of court

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design:*

*Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site.*

##### **Playground- Accessible entrance**

Provide a ramped entry or a level entry to recessed playground that is connected to accessible interior walkways.

##### **Playground- Accessible Route**

a. If only loose fill ground surface materials are used, a high-frequency maintenance policy needs to be in place to ensure accessibility of ground surface materials in play area use zones through all seasons.

b. If ground surface materials will be replaced: consider adding unitary ground surface materials within the playground areas to provide accessible routes and clear ground spaces to all entry/exit points of ground play elements, including swingsets, spring rockers and play structure.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

##### **Fields**

See Recommendations for Access to Facility Areas, Interior Walkways

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### **Court**

1. See Recommendations for Access to Facility Areas, *Interior Walkway*

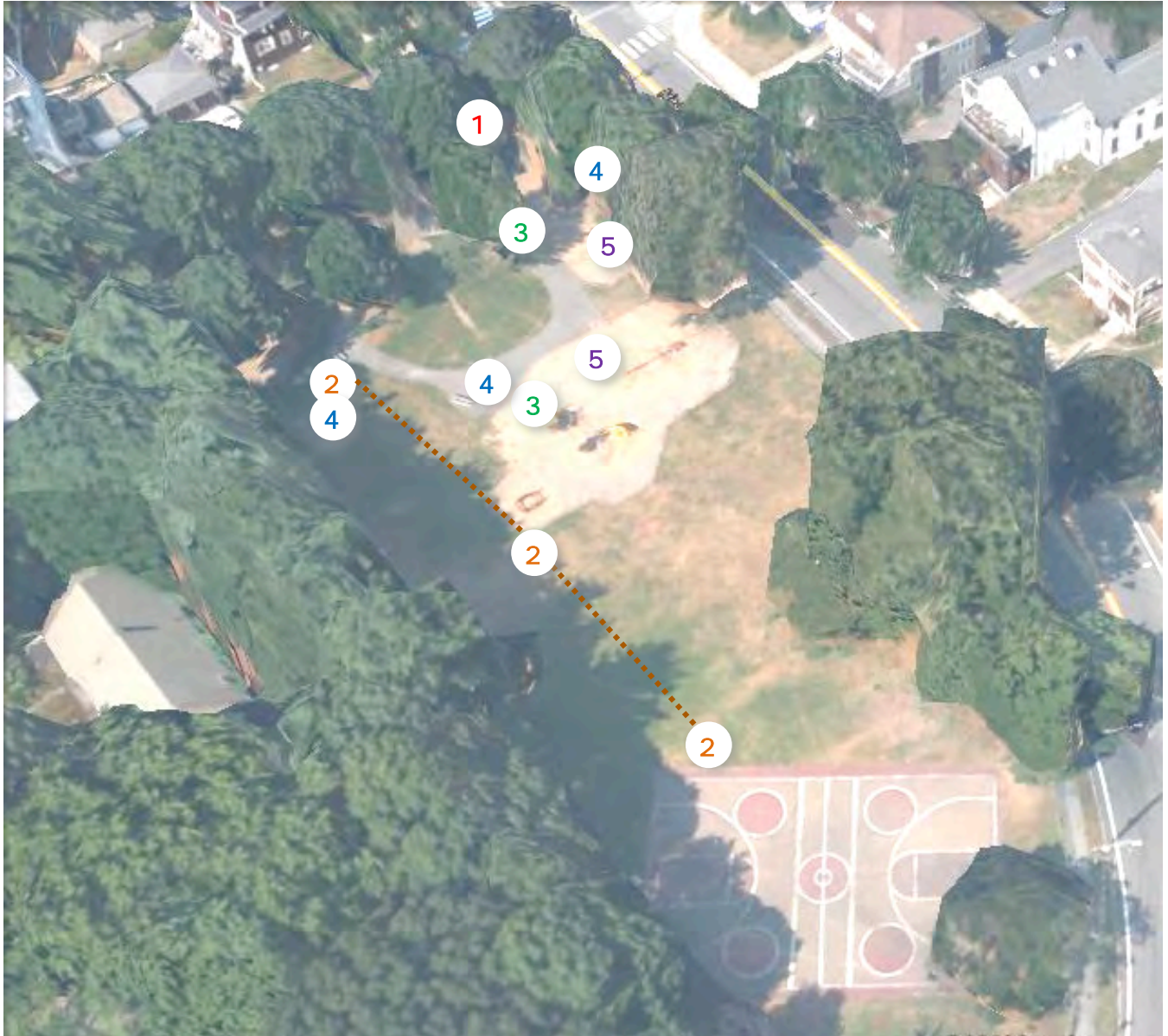
*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

## **Access to Amenities**

### **Benches**

1. See Recommendations for Access to Facility Areas, *Interior Walkway*
2. At least one side of at least one bench along an accessible route, ensure that a clear ground space with minimum 36 inches width and 48 inches length is available for integrated wheelchair seating. This clear area should adjoin, and not overlap, with accessible route,

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site.*



### **Parallel Park ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Repair cracked sidewalk panels. Ensure that cross slopes do not exceed 1:48 (2.08%).
- 2 Create an accessible route to connect facility areas, elements and amenities with an accessible interior walkway.
- 3 Remove portion of the border and/or extend the accessible route for wheelchair users to enter/exit.
- 4 Integrate wheelchair seating space at benches and tables.
- 5 Include accessible ground surface materials.



**Location:**

Irving Street

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

- Upgraded in 1999

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Basketball Court
- Playground
- School Walkway (drinking fountain)

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Parmenter

**Parmenter Park** contains a mostly accessible playground and basketball court. The playground facility is used by at least two schools during weekdays and is open to the public during after-school and weekend times.

There are three separate play areas in the upper level with benches, and a lower level court area, also with benches, and which can be reached from the upper playground and school area via accessible ramp and also a staircase.

The playground contains a large composite play component with an elevated accessible route with compliant slopes, handrails, and turning space. This excellent feature allows accessible play at more than 50% of the upper play elements. However, the approach to this elevated route is via two steps (transfer stations).

The public rights of ways (crosswalk, sidewalk and curb cuts) leading to this facility's two entrances, along Irving St. and Academy St., are inaccessible and will require capital project renovations to ensure that an accessible route is available to all pedestrian



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

Crosswalk at Pleasant Street and Irving Street is highly visible with inaccessible curb cuts and inaccessible sidewalks. Crosswalk over Pleasant St. is not highly visible and the Accessible Pedestrian Signal is not located along a level accessible route. (Photo 1)

Crosswalk at Irving and Academy St. is highly inaccessible with steep slopes. The Pedestrian Safe Crossing sign is mounted on an unsafe, not smooth completely inaccessible brick sidewalk. There is no curb ramp at either end of the crosswalk. On the school side, the curb cut is unusable, with no flared sides, no accessible slopes, and no bottom landing. (Photo 2)

#### ***Curb Ramps***

Curb ramps at Pleasant St and Irving are steeply sloped and do not have accessible flared sides and top landings.

Curb ramps at Academy St. and Irving are either missing, in disrepair, or, where provided, are incorrectly constructed with steep slopes and lack of bottom and top landings. (Photo 3)

These issues negatively impact the provision of an accessible route connecting facility to site arrival points, including the nearby public transit stop at Pleasant @ Irving St. and the adjacent streets and sidewalks.



Photo 4

### ***Sidewalks***

Sidewalks from Pleasant St. & Irving to facility have excessive cross slopes. and require repair around the perimeter of facility. (Photo 4)

Sidewalks along Academy Street do not have topological constrains and need to be mitigated to provide accessible walkway slopes. The cross slopes near the Academy St. gate exceed 8% in places, where the maximum should not be more than 2.08%. (Photo 5)



Photo 5

### ***Point of Entry***

There are two points of entry with gates- one along Irving St. and one along Academy St.

Both points of entry have excessive cross slopes. The sidewalk and entry panels near the gate are in disrepair. (Photo 6)



Photo 6



*Photo 7*

### **Gates**

Gates are at each point of entry. The ground surface under the gate on Irving Street is in disrepair.

The gate at Academy St. leads from a sidewalk with excessive cross slopes and the ground surface is uneven. (Photo 7)

Both gates require smooth surface hardware on the push side.

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### **Walkways**

Walkways are smooth and level and ramps are provided to match areas that include stairs.

Walkways do not connect with play areas because the borders surrounding play areas is not level with either the loose fill in the play areas and the walkway hardtop. (Photo 8)

A straight ramp leading to the play areas from the school sidewalk provides a walkway that is accessible to all. This walkway connects via a hilly route to the court area below the upper playground area. (Photo 9)



*Photo 8*



*Photo 9*



Photo 10

### **Ramp**

A straight ramp connects the school sidewalk and playground area walkways.

Ramp has excellent accessible slopes and accessible handrails. There is some slight disrepair due to age at the bottom and top landings. (Photo 10)

### **Stairways**

Stairways include accessible top handrails but lack accessible bottom handrails. (Photo 11)



Photo 11

### **Play Area- Ground surface**

There are three play areas. The play area nearest Academy St. entrance includes broken swingset equipment.

Although the play areas closer to the ramp include some accessible play structures, the loose fill ground surface does not hold accessible slopes. Cross slopes are over 5% near transfer steps, and at other entry/exit points within the play areas. (Photo 12)



Photo 12



Photo 13

### ***Play Area- Elements***

The large composite play structure includes an accessible route with handrails and turning space, between the transfer station (2 steps) and over 50% of the elevated components.

However, there is not an accessible (no-step) route to gain access to the accessible elevated ramp, so this is not an independently accessible feature. (Photo 13)

Although an effort was made to provide a level entry into the play area with the row of tires, the loose fill materials settle and the level entrance is not available. There can be a ramp or rubber entry provided from the surrounding walkway and an intersecting rubber tile route leading to and providing unrestricted circulation around the row of tires to provide interactive accessible play.



Photo 14

### ***Courts***

A full basketball court is provided at the entry gate from Irving St. This area also includes two accessible benches. (Photo 15)

The court in itself is an accessible program and area within the perimeter of site. However, the facility cannot be called accessible, because there are no accessible site arrival points to either facility entrance. (The nearby public transit routes from Pleasant @ Irving are not connected to any accessible public rights of ways, and the sidewalks leading to the Academy St. entrance have very excessive cross slopes.)



Photo 15



Photo 16

## Access to Elements

### ***Benches***

There is one bench at the playground area with a backrest and armrests. It is set into the recessed play area. This bench is inaccessible because it is not approached with an accessible route; and it is sitting on loose fill ground surface materials that are not holding an accessible cross slope. (Photo 16)

There are two benches in the court area that have backrests, armrests on either side, and an armrest in the middle of the bench. These benches are accessible.



Photo 17

### ***Informational Signage***

Signage at the Academy St. entrance is not along an accessible route. Signage posted on gate at Irving St. entrance is also not along an accessible route; along with terrain issues, this driveway apron into the court area is in disrepair, with many cracks in the concrete sidewalk and in the asphalt hardtop within court.

## Access to Amenities

### ***Drinking Fountains***

There is a pedestal drinking fountain along the school walkway adjacent to the playground. It was not in working order on the day of the survey (late May). This fountain has accessible dimensions for children and individuals using wheeled mobility devices.



Photo 18

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks & Curb Ramps**

Academy St. entrance: Reconstruct crosswalk area at intersection of Academy St. and Irving St. Add three compliant curb ramps. Provide two perpendicular curb ramps at crosswalk and one perpendicular curb ramp facing Academy St.. (3 curb ramps, 12 sidewalk panels)

When street reconstruction is planned for Irving St., replace brick sidewalk on SW side with smooth surface panels, such as concrete or asphalt, which, if constructed correctly, can be maintained as accessible for the life of the build.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalks**

Reconstruct at least the facility (eastern) side of Academy St. sidewalks, from Irving St. to at least Oak Knoll Street (about 566 feet).

##### **Crosswalk, Sidewalk and Curb Ramps**

Reconstruct sidewalks and curb ramps from Public transit stop to intersection of Pleasant & Irving St. At curb ramp nearest APS pole, replace apex curb ramp with blended curb ramp oriented towards east.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes,*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### **Points of Entry**

1. Replace driveway apron at Irving St. entrance with sidewalk that blends to 5% at entrance within pedestrian zone. Repair cracks in asphalt and ensure that ground materials match levels. (about 4 S.F.)

2. Reconstruct recessed entryway from curb to gate at Academy St. entrance. (about 6 S.F.)

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Location; Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Entrances; Accessible Routes for Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes.*

### Access to Facility Areas

#### **Play Area- Accessible Route**

a. If only loose fill ground surface materials are used, a high-frequency maintenance policy needs to be in place to ensure accessibility of ground surface materials in play area use zones through all seasons.

b. If ground surface materials will be replaced: consider adding impact-attenuating tiles within the playground areas to provide accessible routes and clear ground spaces to all entry/exit points of ground play elements, including (repaired) swingsets, tires and play structure.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible*

*Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation  
Facilities for Play Areas.*

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Benches***

Whenever the surface of the playground is corrected, ensure that benches are also connected to an accessible route.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*

Provide clear floor space adjacent to bench.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and  
Walking Surfaces; and Built-In Elements for  
Benches, Clear Floor or Ground Space*

### ***Signage***

Have alternate formats of printed information regarding Park hours and any associated rules readily available in digital formats (.txt, .brf) and in Large Print.

As part of the developing signage standards:  
Consider adding the facility name to all school/public playground signage at accessible entrances; and adding at least one sign that includes Braille.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping  
for Signage, Designations, and Communication  
Elements and Features for Signs*



### **Parmenter Park ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Create an accessible route to connect the facility with sidewalks and nearby public transit.
- 2 Construct accessible entryways.
- 3 Create at least one 36-inch wide at-grade entry into all three recessed play areas.
- 4 Integrate wheelchair seating space at benches.
- 5 Replace with accessible ground surface materials.
- 6 Reconstruct sidewalk with accessible slopes.



## Peirce School Park

**Peirce School Park** is a neighborhood park located at the Peirce Elementary School between Park Avenue Extension and Newland Road. This facility includes one playground with swings, slides and a jungle gym, one basketball court, and one hardtop area for four-square adjacent to the school.

**Location:**

85 Park Avenue Extension, Peirce Elementary School

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 1997 – Installation of playground

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground (wood fiber)
- Basketball Court
- Four-Square Hardtop

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- School Activities
- Available for playing field permits
- Off-street parking provided adjacent to Peirce Elementary School after 3pm.



Photo 1



Photo 2

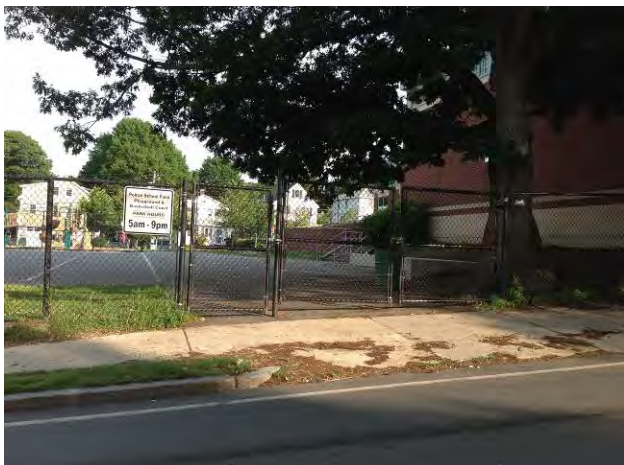


Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### ***Crosswalks and Curb Ramps***

Sidewalks and curb ramps nearby Peirce School Park are in good condition. However, curb ramps provided on both ends of the crosswalk at the intersection of Newland Road and the driveway near the playground are not accessible because level top landings are not provided. (Photo1)

This issue negatively affects the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Forest Street @ Sunset Road.

#### ***Parking***

In the parking lot off of Newland Road, one parking space designated as accessible is provided near the playground. Not only is the curb ramp incorrectly located and the parking space is extremely steep (over 8%) but also the parking sign does not include identification for van-designated space and is hidden by a tree. (Photo 2)

#### ***Points of Entry***

This facility has two at-grade points of entry: one on Newland and one on Park Avenue Extension. On Park Avenue Extension, the gate that leads to the basketball court is not accessible because it lacks an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate.



*Photo 4*

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Tables***

One picnic table is provided along the concrete walkway near the playground; however, it is not accessible because it does not provide the required knee clearance for wheeled mobility devices and is not provided on an accessible route. (Photo 4)

### ***Benches***

Two benches are provided along the concrete walkway near the playground and one bench is provided within the grassy area near the basketball court. Neither is accessible because they do not adjoin an accessible route. (Photos 5 and 6)



*Photo 5*



*Photo 6*

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Repair both curb ramps at the intersection of Newland Road and the driveway near the playground (total of 2 curb ramps).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Points of Entry**

Install an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate at the gate on Park Avenue Extension.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Stairways.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Parking**

Relocate the accessible parking space to a nearby location where the slopes are not greater than 2% in any direction and install a sign for a van-designated space.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: General Site and Building Elements for Parking.*

##### **Access to Elements**

##### **Tables**

Replace the picnic table near the playground with an ADA-compliant amenity and extend the asphalt walkway to it (about 10 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Benches**

Relocate at least one of the benches to the edge of the concrete walkway or extend the walkway to it (about 5 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 1 bench).



### **Peirce School Park ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Crosswalks and Curb Ramps:** Repair both curb ramps at the intersection of Newland Road and the driveway near the playground
- 2 Parking:** Relocate the accessible parking space to a nearby location where the slopes are not greater than 2% in any direction and install a sign for a van-designated space.
- 3 Points of Entry:** Install an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate at the gate on Park Avenue Extension.
- 4 Tables:** Replace the picnic table near the playground with an ADA-compliant amenity and extend the asphalt walkway to it.
- 5 Benches:** Relocate at least one of the benches to the edge of the concrete walkway or extend the walkway to it



## **Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground**

Also known as the Stratton School Park, **Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground** is a small neighborhood park located at the Stratton Elementary School between Pheasant and Mountain Avenues. An at-grade point of entry is provided from Mountain Avenue while stairways and a ramp connect the facility to Pheasant Avenue.

This facility includes one basketball court adjacent to the school building, one grassy field along Mountain Avenue, and a playground with separate zones of play structures along Pheasant Avenue.

### **Location:**

180 Mountain Avenue, Stratton Elementary School

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground (rubber and wood fiber)
- Four-Square Hardtop
- Basketball Court
- Grassy Field

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- School Activities
- Available for playing field permits
- Off-street parking provided adjacent to Stratton Elementary School after 3pm.



Photo 1

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Four highly visible crosswalks are provided immediately near this facility: three at intersections of Pheasant Avenue and Fabyan Street, Chatham Avenue, and Ronald Road, and one across Mountain Avenue near the parking lot. No crosswalk provides the required curb ramps at each end. (Photo 1)

#### **Sidewalks**

Near the entry point to the grassy field, the sidewalk along Mountain Avenue has excessive cross slope and several sections with deteriorated surface and in need of maintenance.

All of the issues described above negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Washington Street @ Pheasant Avenue.

#### **Parking**

Off-street parking with over 35 parking spaces is offered to the public after school hours. No accessible parking space was identified in this parking facility.

#### **Points of Entry**

This facility has five points of entry: two stairways and a ramp along Pheasant Avenue and an at-grade access at the parking lot and a gate opening leading to the grassy field on Mountain Avenue. At the bottom of the stairway closest to the playground, the surface is in need of maintenance and is not slip-resistant. (Photo 2)



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

Twenty five feet west of the stairway, a ramp with missing railing on one side and a protective edge on the other side connects the sidewalk to the facility. Additionally, the surface at top of ramp is in need of maintenance. (Photo 3)

## Access to Facility Areas

### *Interior Walkways*

An asphalt walkway is provided between the ramp on the south edge of the site and most features in the facility. However, near one picnic table and drinking fountain, the surface is not properly maintained and is not consistently firm, stable or slip-resistant near the tennis courts. (Photo 4)

### *Field Playing Areas*

An accessible route is not provided to the grassy field because a curb separates it from the basketball court and the rest of the facility. (Photo 5)

### *Play Areas*

Although the asphalt walkway connects most features in this facility, no accessible route is provided to two separate areas with swingsets. (Photo 6)

## Access to Elements

### *Tables*

Two picnic tables are provided near the playground. Although the one closest to Pheasant Avenue is offered along an accessible route, it is not accessible because it does not provide the required knee clearance for wheeled mobility devices. (Photo 4)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Install curb ramps on both sides of crosswalks across Pheasant and Mountain Avenues (total of 8 curb ramps).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair the sidewalk along Mountain Avenue (215 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Curb Ramps.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Parking**

Along the edge of the basketball court, designate two accessible parking spaces with an 8-foot wide access aisle between them. Install two parking signs between 5 feet and 8 feet above the ground: one for accessible parking space and one for van-designated space.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: General Site and Building Elements for Parking.*

##### **Points of Entry**

Maintain the surface at the bottom of the stairways and at the top of the ramp on Pheasant Avenue clear of sand. Install an ADA-compliant sign at the top of each stairway to direct the public to the accessible point of entries.

Install one handrail along the ramp on the playground side and provide an edge protection (curb or modified railing) on the street side (about 35 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Ramps.*

### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Maintain the surface of the walkway near the picnic table and drinking fountain.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Field Playing Areas**

Remove a portion of the curb between the grassy field and the basketball court (about 5 feet) and install an accessible walkway along the playground side of grassy field (about 100 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*

**Play Areas**

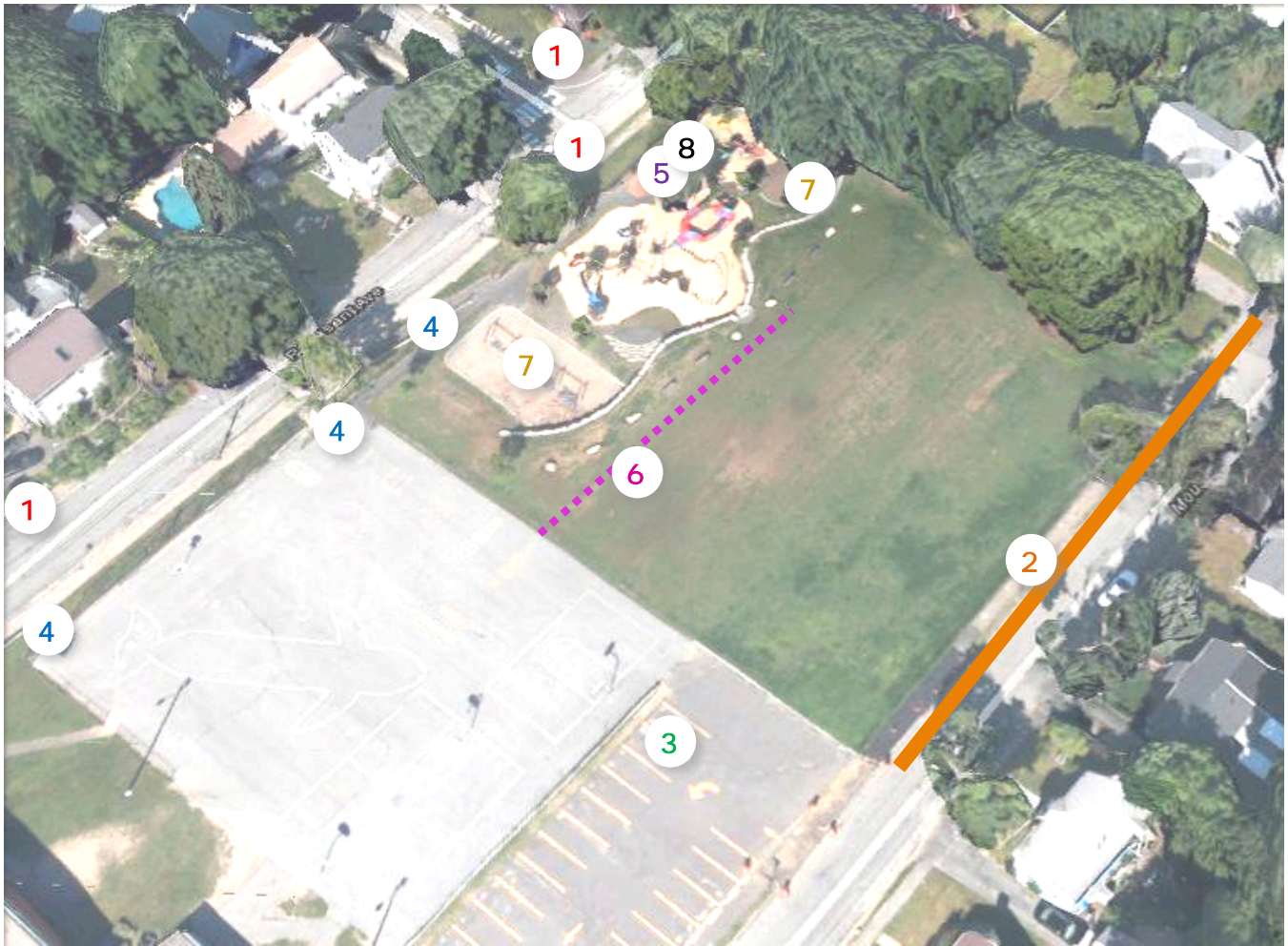
Replenish or replace the ground surfaces in  
both swingset areas so that they are flush with  
the adjacent walkway.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*

**Tables**

Replace the picnic table closest to Pheasant  
Avenue with an ADA-compliant amenity.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*



**Pheasant Avenue Park / Greeley Playground ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Crosswalks and Curb Ramps:** Install curb ramps on both sides of crosswalks across Pheasant and Mountain Avenues.
- 2 Sidewalks:** Repair the sidewalk along Mountain Avenue.
- 3 Parking:** Along the edge of the basketball court, designate two accessible parking spaces with an 8-foot wide access aisle between them. Install two parking signs between 5 feet and 8 feet above the ground: one for accessible parking space and one for van-designated space.
- 4 Points of Entry:** Maintain the surface at the bottom of the stairways and at the top of the ramp on Pheasant Avenue clear of sand. Install an ADA-compliant sign at the top of each stairway to direct the public to the accessible point of entries. Install one handrail along the ramp on the playground side and provide an edge protection (curb or modified railing) on the street side.
- 5 Interior Walkways:** Maintain the surface of the walkway near the picnic table and drinking fountain.
- 6 Field Playing Areas:** Remove a portion of the curb between the grassy field and the basketball court and install an accessible walkway along the playground side of grassy field.
- 7 Play Areas:** Replenish or replace the ground surfaces in both swing set areas so that they are flush with the adjacent walkway.
- 8 Tables:** Replace the picnic table closest to Pheasant Avenue with an ADA-compliant amenity.



## Poet's Corner

Located at the intersection of Wadsworth and Shelley Roads, **Poet's Corner** adjoins two streets for about 1,000 feet; however, only one point of entry is provided on Shelley Road.

This facility includes a playground with slides and swings, one basketball court, one softball/little league field with dugouts and batting cages, and two deteriorated tennis courts. Limited on-street parking is provided on Shelley Road.

**Location:**

175 Dow Avenue

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground (sand)
- Basketball Court
- Softball/Little League Field
- Two Batting Cages
- Two Tennis Courts

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### ***Crosswalks and Curb Ramps***

No curb ramp is provided at the intersection of Wadsworth Road and Shelley Road or at short section of sidewalk on Shelley Road at the entry point near the playground.

#### ***Sidewalks***

The sidewalk along Wadsworth Road is in poor condition. Not only are a few sections deteriorated but also the sidewalk has excessive cross slopes and sediments from adjacent areas that can make the ground surface slippery. Additionally, no sidewalk is offered along Shelley Road, except for the short section of sidewalk at the entry point near the playground. (Photos 1 and 3)

All of the issues described above negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Wadsworth Road @ Dow Avenue, which is inaccessible because it has a step. (Photo 2)

#### ***Points of Entry***

With the exception of the point of entry near the playground on Shelley Road, there are no other clear points of entry at this facility. This point of entry is in poor condition and lacks a curb ramp. (Photo 3)



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Interior Walkways***

Although an asphalt walkway is provided between the point of entry at Shelley Road and certain features within this facility, it has excessively slopes near the street (11%) and deteriorated ground surfaces near the courts. (Photos 4 and 5)

### ***Court and Field Playing Areas***

Because asphalt curbs are located along the perimeter of the tennis courts and the basketball court, no accessible route is provided to these courts. (Photos 5 and 6)

Additionally, the asphalt walkway does not extend beyond the basketball court and no accessible route is provided to the baseball field and batting cages on the South side of the facility. (Photos 7 and 8)



*Photo 7*

### ***Team Seating Areas***

No accessible route is provided between the asphalt walkway and either team seating area adjacent to the baseball field. (Photo 9)

### ***Play Areas***

One playground is provided near the point of entry at Shelley Road. Although the asphalt walkway surrounds the playground, it does not extend to all transfer points of the play structure. Further, the few accessible routes provided to transfer points are in poor condition.



*Photo 8*



*Photo 9*



Photo 10

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Benches***

Four benches are provided along the asphalt walkway near the playground. Although they adjoin an accessible route, sand from the adjacent playground can make the ground surface slippery. (Photo 10)

### ***Toilet Room***

One portable toilet room is designated as accessible and is poorly located near the tennis courts and the batting cages. However, this amenity is not accessible because it does not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 11)



Photo 11

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Install curb ramps at the intersection of Wadsworth and Shelley Roads and install one curb ramp near the point of entry at Shelley Road (total of 4 curb ramps).

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair sidewalk along Shelley Road (about 25 feet) and extend it to the intersection of Wadsworth Road in order to create an accessible route to the nearby public transit stop (about 500 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Points of Entry**

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider adding new at-grade points of entry to this facility.

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Re-grade and repair the asphalt walkway so that it is free of tripping hazards and that running slopes are no greater than 5% and cross slopes are no greater than 2% (about 275 feet).

##### **Court Playing Areas**

Remove the asphalt curbs located within the gates of the tennis courts and at least one section of the basketball court in order to create an accessible route to these courts (about 20 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Field Playing Areas**

Extend the asphalt walkway beyond the basketball court to the baseball field and batting cages (about 100 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Team Seating Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the baseball field. The accessible route to the dugout can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*

### **Play Areas**

Provide new accessible walkways and maintain existing walkways to all transfer points within the playground (about 50 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*

## **Access to Elements**

### **Benches**

Maintain the ground surface adjacent the benches near the playground clear of sand.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 2 benches).

### **Toilet Room**

Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkway or extend the asphalt walkway to it. The accessible route to the portable toilet room can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010  
ADA Standards for Accessible Design:  
Accessible Routes.*



#### **Poet's Corner ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Crosswalks and Curb Ramps:** Install curb ramps at the intersection of Wadsworth and Shelley Roads and install one curb ramp near the point of entry at Shelley Road.
- 2 Sidewalks:** Repair sidewalk along Shelley Road and extend it to the intersection of Wadsworth Road in order to create an accessible route to the nearby public transit stop.
- 3 Points of Entry:** consider adding new at-grade points of entry to this facility.
- 4 Interior Walkways:** Re-grade and repair the asphalt walkway so that it is free of tripping hazards and that running slopes are no greater than 5% and cross slopes are no greater than 2%.
- 5 Court Playing Areas:** Remove the asphalt curbs located within the gates of the tennis courts and at least one section of the basketball court in order to create an accessible route to these courts.
- 6 Field Playing Areas:** Extend the asphalt walkway beyond the basketball court to the baseball field and batting cages.
- 7 Team Seating Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the baseball field. The accessible route to the dugout can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.
- 8 Play Areas:** Provide new accessible walkways and maintain existing walkways to all transfer points within the playground.
- 9 Benches:** Maintain the ground surface adjacent the benches near the playground clear of sand.
- 1** Consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced.
- Toilet Area:** Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkway or extend the asphalt walkway



## Reservoir Beach

Located at the Arlington-Lexington line on the North end of town, **Reservoir Beach** features a sandy beach beside a chlorinated and filtered pool built into the Arlington Reservoir. Open during the summertime, this facility also includes one playground with separate zones of play structures and a building with concessions and partially accessible toilet rooms.

An unpaved parking lot off of Lowell Street is located on the South edge of the site. A trail that circles the reservoir connects to the beach on the North edge of the site.

**Location:**

250 Lowell Street, Arlington Reservoir

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Beach
- Playground (sand)
- Building with Concessions and Toilet Rooms

**Public Programs:**

Open 10 a.m. to dusk in June, July, and August



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Along Lowell Street, three pedestrian crosswalks lead to the points of entry to this facility. At the intersection of Lowell Street and Westmoreland Avenue, no curb ramp is provided on the East side of Lowell Street and the curb ramp on the opposite side of the street is not accessible because a level top landing is not provided. Although curb ramps are provided on both ends of two highly visible crosswalks at the intersection of Lowell Street and West Court Terrace, neither is accessible because level top landings are not provided. (Photo1)

#### **Sidewalks**

On the North side of the site, a fire hydrant, vegetation, and a deteriorated driveway obstruct the sidewalk along Lowell Street.

All of the issues described above negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stops at Lowell Street.

#### **Parking**

This facility has a large unpaved parking lot off of Lowell Street. Although two *ad hoc* spaces designated as accessible are provided near the gated entrance to the beach, they do not meet any of the minimum requirements for accessibility. (Photo 3)

Additionally, a small parking lot on the Northeast corner of the site is restricted to residents with a reservation of the playground and picnic table for birthday parties. However, no accessible parking spaces are provided.



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

### ***Points of Entry***

This facility has two points of entry along Lowell St. that are open to the public and lead into the unrestricted public parking lot.

Along Lowell Street, both asphalt driveways that lead into this parking lot are also used for pedestrian access. The asphalt driveway closest to the beach is in poor condition and has excessive slopes (20%). (Photos 2 and 3)

There is also an at-grade point of entry located off of the trail on the North edge of the site near the playgrounds. This entry point is closed during the summertime while the beach is in operation.

From the public parking lot, there is a gated entry point to the beach. This gate is missing a smooth surface or kickplate hardware on the bottom ten inches of the gate.

An additional point of entry along Lowell Street leads to the restricted parking lot on the Northeast corner of the site.

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### ***Interior Walkways***

A sand path is provided along the entire facility. This path is not accessible because it is uneven and unstable, especially near benches and trees. Although a concrete walkway is provided near the water's edge, it is not connected to an accessible route. (Photos 4 and 5)

Additionally, a concrete walkway adjacent to the building has excessive cross slopes (6%).



Photo 7

### ***Play Areas***

One large sandy area contains three separate zones of play structures. Although an accessible route is provided to the large play structure, the transition between stone path and rubber surface is in poor condition. (Photo 7)

No accessible route is provided to the swingset and the small play structure. (Photos 8 and 9)



Photo 8

### ***Access to Elements***

#### ***Tables***

One picnic table is provided near the playground; however, it is not accessible because it does not provide the required knee clearance for people using wheeled mobility devices and is not located along an accessible route. (Photo 10, next page)

#### ***Benches***

Several benches are provided through this facility. They can be found along the sand path and trees, within the grassy knoll near the fence on Lowell Street, within the playground, and near the water's edge. The benches are not accessible because they do not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 11, next page)



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

### **Concession Counter**

Located in the building near the playground, a concession counter is not accessible because it is too high (42" above the ground). (Photo 12)

### **Toilet Rooms**

One set of multi-user toilet rooms (one for each gender) are also located in the building near the playground. Although there has been an attempt to increase accessibility in these toilet rooms, they are not fully accessible because:

- ADA-compliant signs are not provided outside the toilet rooms;
- Lavatories have unprotected pipes underneath them;
- Accessible toilet stalls are provided; however, self-closing hinges of doors are malfunctioning, coat hooks are too high (68" above the floor), and side grab bars are too low (31" above the floor);
- Changing stations are too high (42" above the floor);
- Changing stalls are provided but none are accessible;
- Fire alarms are not provided;
- Outdoor showers are located adjacent to the toilet rooms but none are accessible.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Install one curb ramp at the intersection of Lowell Street and Westmoreland Avenue and repair the curb ramps at the intersection of Lowell Street and Westmoreland Avenue and at the intersection of Lowell Street and West Court Terrace (total of 3 curb ramps).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair a section of the sidewalk along Lowell Street on the North side of the site (about 25 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Parking**

Confirm the total number of parking spaces and provide the required parking spaces near the entrance to the beach. At a minimum, pave the area of the parking lot where the accessible parking spaces are located as well as the accessible route between the parking spaces and the beach. Additionally, provide at least one van-designated space at the restricted parking lot on the Northeast corner of the site.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: General Site and Building Elements for Parking.*

##### **Points of Entry**

Convert the steep vehicular driveway closest to the beach into an accessible pedestrian entry point by re-grading it so that running slopes are no greater than 5% and cross slopes are no greater than 2%. Alternatively, pave the entire parking lot and provide an accessible route between the driveway farthest from the beach and the point of entry to the beach.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Points of Entry**

Install an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate at the gate at the entrance to the beach.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes.*

### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Provide an accessible route between the parking lot, the building, the ramp at the water's edge, all zones of the playground, and the entry point at the trail (about 775 feet). Rebuild the concrete walkway adjacent to the building so that slopes are no greater than 2%.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Play Areas**

Repair the transition between stone path and rubber surface at the large play structure and install an accessible walkway between points of entry and the swingset and the small play structure. The accessible route to these play areas can adjoin the new accessible walkway through the facility.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### **Access to Elements**

#### **Tables**

Replace the picnic table near the playground with an ADA-compliant amenity and extend the asphalt walkway to it (about 75 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### **Benches**

Relocate one of each type of bench to an accessible area or install an accessible walkway to them (about 50 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 10 benches).

#### **Concession Counter**

Lower the concession counter located in the building to 36" above the ground. Alternatively, provide an auxiliary counter with a maximum height of 36" in close proximity to the

concession counter, or provide equivalent facilitation. Equivalent facilitation may be provided in the form of a folding shelf attached to the main counter, an auxiliary table nearby, a clipboard made available to the public, or other means.

#### **Toilet Rooms**

Make the following modifications to each multi-user toilet room:

- Install ADA-compliant signs alongside the doors to the toilet rooms;
- Protect the plumbing underneath the at least one of the lavatories in each toilet room;
- Inside each accessible toilet stall, adjust or replace the self-closing hinges of doors, lower the coat hook so that it is no higher than 48" above the floor, and raise the side grab bar so that is aligned with the rear grab bar;
- Lower the changing stations so that they are no higher than 34" above the floor;
- Install audible and visible fire alarms;
- At each outdoor shower, install a slip-resistant wood decking so that it is flush with the adjacent concrete surface and retrofit one of the shower controls so that it is no higher than 48" above the ground.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Plumbing Elements and Facilities for Toilet and Bathing Rooms.*

*[Note: no satellite image provided for Reservoir Beach Recommendations.]*



## Robbins Farm

This beautiful park is the home to unique summer events, nature and astronomy learning opportunities, expansive views of the Boston skyline, a unique hill slide/staircase element, unique ground play elements, many picnic and socializing amenities, off-leash dog walking hours, a renovated ball field and acres of rolling open grassy fields. Facility is across from an elementary school.

Alterations were completed since 1991 within primary function areas, spaces and/or elements without provision of an accessible route to altered areas; the alterations also contain noncomplying elements. At this time, noncomplying elements should be corrected per the 2010 Standards.

The major obstacle to inclusive programs at this location is the lack of accessible walkways connecting the crosswalk entry to and into the playground areas, learning garden, picnic and socializing amenities, fields and court.

### Location:

51 Eastern Avenue

### Year Built: 1942

### Known Renovations since 1991:

2003: Walkway grading and paving, purchase and installation of play elements, benches, tables, trash receptacles and other park furnishings<sup>29</sup>

2012: new Long Hill Slide, portable bathroom installed.

### Primary Function Areas Surveyed:

- Exterior Pedestrian facilities
- Playground, 2 play zones
- Picnic Area
- Baseball Hill
- Basketball Court
- Cooperative Garden
- Boston Skyline Viewing Oval
- Soccer Practice Field
- Open Field
- Interior Walkways/Dog Walking

### Public Programs:

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Off-Leash Dog Walking hours
- School Activities
- Community Live Arts events
- Community Special Event Days
- Long Hill Slide, Sledding
- Cooperative Learning Garden program
- Adult astronomy, nature programs
- Boston Skyline Viewing
- Portable restroom provided
- Field sports permits

<sup>29</sup> Information retrieved from  
<http://www.robbsfarmpark.org/Almanacs/2003/2003-Winter/index.html>



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### *Pedestrian Crosswalk Area*

There is a highly visible crosswalk mid-street on Eastern Avenue between the school entrance and the park entrance. The path of travel on both sides of this crosswalk contains noncomplying features, including non-level bottom landings with excessive gutter to ramp vertical changes and excessive run and cross slopes at ramps and adjacent sidewalk panels. Curb ramp issues are detailed below. (Photo 1, 2)

#### *Curb Ramps*

New curb ramps with tactile strips are provided at crosswalk between school entrance and 1 park entrance. Both curb ramps have noncompliant cross slopes and excessive level changes at bottom. (Photo 2)

The curb ramp on school side of crosswalk also has a noncompliant run slope and an excessive vertical depression at the gutter to ramp transition, leading to water and ice accumulation issues. (Photo 3)



Photo 4

### ***Sidewalks***

Sidewalk along Eastern Ave. has noncomplying cross slopes. (Photo 4)

### ***Public Transit Access***

There is no accessible route connection between facility and the nearest public transit stop which is 1 block east of Grandview Rd. at Park Circle. There are no curb ramps at the intersections of Eastern Ave and Grandview Rd. (1 block E of facility). There are no curb ramps at the intersection of Eastern Ave. and Scituate St. (1 block W of facility).



Photo 5

### ***Parking***

On-street parking is provided. There are no designated accessible spaces.

### ***Points of Entry***

There are 2 points of entry along Eastern Avenue within 100 feet of each other. Neither entry point leads to an accessible walkway that links all areas, elements and amenities within the perimeter of site along a unified route. (Photo 5)

The only interior connection between these 2 entry walkways is an inaccessible wide tiered stairs route with *no* handrails. (Photo 6)



Photo 6



Photo 7

### **Gates**

There is an inaccessible gate entrance at the Cooperative Learning Garden program. The gate is not along an accessible route, the gate opening is too narrow, and gate lacks a smooth surface on the push side.

The ground surface at the gate is not firm, not level, and not slip-free. (Photo 7)

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### **Circulation**

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

#### **Interior Walkways**

The 2 interior walkways are not connected to each other and lead to different facility areas.

The walkway extending from the school crosswalk entrance provides an at-grade entrance and access to the Long Hill Slide/staircase top and the Boston Skyline Viewing Oval. This route has some cross and run slope issues that can be mitigated with small wall or handrail supports. This walkway does not connect to the border of field sports activities, the 2 sides of the court, the benches on Baseball Hill, or the portable toilet entrance. (Photo 8)

Although the walkway from the entrance west of the school crosswalk leads to the play areas and benches, it does not provide an accessible connection because of level changes and lack of clear width. (Photo 9)



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10

## Access to Facility Areas

### *Play areas*

The bordered playground is surfaced with loose-fill ground surface materials.

The vertical borders on both sides of walkway and along entire perimeter of play areas do not include an accessible entry/exit ramp or firm leveled surface into play areas.

Loose-fill surface materials require frequent maintenance to ensure accessibility in all seasons. These play areas do not currently offer accessible circulation routes because the ground surface materials have excessive cross slopes, depressions, and protrusions near and within ground play elements and transfer stations. (Photo 10)



Photo 11

### *Play areas- Elements*

The recessed playground area is the exit point for the Long Hill slides and accommodates 2 play areas that are age-appropriate. There is no accessible connecting route between the bottom and the top of the slide. (Photo 11)

The play structure for younger children has an exceedingly steep ramp that does not provide accessible use of elevated play components. Although there are a unique variety of free-standing ground play elements, including 2 wooden cars, 1 small cabin, a See-Saw, Multi-Pondo, and a sandbox; and, the play structure also offers 3 types of ground play elements, these elements are not accessible because the ground surface materials are not accessible and there are no accessible entry points into play areas. (Photo 12)



Photo 12



Photo 12

### ***Playground, cont.***

There are 3 stationery swingsets with a variety of swings, including a tire, 8 bucket swings, and a set w/ 5 for older children and 1 bucket seat.

The composite play structure for older children does not include an accessible elevated route. The transfer steps do not lead to at least 51% of different types of elevated play features. There are 8-13 inaccessible play features for older children, including the Long Slide, which is not connected to an accessible route from bottom to top. There are not a proportionate number of accessible ground or elevated play elements for children with disabilities, age 5 and older. (Photo 12)



Photo 13

### ***Cooperative Learning Garden***

There is no accessible route connecting the Cooperative Community Garden to the park entrances, walkways or field paths. Within the enclosed garden area, there are no areas within accessible reach ranges, along an accessible route, or that can be approached via a firm, smooth, level and slip-free path. (Photo 13)

### ***Fields***

An accessible route is required to connect the boundary of each area of sport activity to interior walkways and accessible entrance.

The soccer and ball fields are not located along an accessible route. Run slopes near benches indicate that an accessible route with handrails is feasible. (Photo 14)



Photo 14



Photo 15

### ***Court***

A basketball court is located to the north of the ball field. There is no accessible route connecting to either side of the court. An accessible route is required to connect to the boundary of both sides of the court.

### ***Viewing Oval***

The Viewing Oval is connected to one interior walkway; and there is a level, firm and smooth clear space available to be used for integrated wheelchair seating. (Photo 16)



Photo 16

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Tables***

The picnic area includes four 4-top tables anchored to platforms that are not connected to the paved walkways or any accessible route. There is no firm, level and slip-free clear space provided at these platforms. (Photo 17)

One picnic table includes a clear space for integrated seating, near the tot lot, but is not located along an accessible route.

Picnic tables near the Eastern Ave. entry points are also not connected along any paved accessible route.



Photo 17



Photo 18

### ***Benches***

Benches located on lawn above ball field are spaced in a manner that allows for integrated wheelchair seating but are not located along an accessible route.

There are 12 benches w/ armrests around playground, 4 w/ armrests at Oval, 6 spectator benches at ball field, and 2 team benches at ball field.

Benches are not connected along an accessible route due to lack of minimal maneuvering width from walkway; the vertical level changes of the walkway and playground perimeter borders; and the lack of a firm, level ground surface inside play areas. (Photo 18)



Photo 19

### ***Signage***

Both entry points require informational and directional signage to assist users in choosing the most useable paved walkway leading to the various areas of the park at this time. Walkway maps would be useful at points of entry to both interior walkways.

Signage denoting Dog Walk Hours and rules are posted too high proportionate to the approach and viewing distance provided along the trails. (Photo 19)



Photo 20

### ***Information Kiosk/Bulletin Board***

The information kiosk/bulletin board at the crosswalk entry point includes health information about Lyme disease that is mounted above 60 inches from the ground and cannot be read because the font is too small. (Photo 20)



Photo 21

## **Access to Amenities**

### ***Portable Toilet***

Rental of portable toilets began in 2012. This is an accessible portable bathroom; however, it is not located along an accessible route. The route from the walkway to the door is dirt mixed with gravel and is steep, not slip-free, not firm and not level. (Photo 21)

### ***Trash and Recycling Receptacles***

Trash receptacles are not uniformly located along an accessible route with provision of accessible reach ranges for use.

Interior walkway edge has a level change over 1/2 inch unbeveled.

The recycling compactor is not located along an accessible route and is located on a platform, which does not provide accessible reach ranges or accessible clear space for forward and parallel approach. (Photo 22)



Photo 22

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Project

#### Approach & Entrance

##### ***Crosswalk, Curb Ramps, Sidewalks***

Add an accessible route connecting facility accessible entrances to nearest Public Transit Stop - Park Circle @ Eastern Ave.

This will include additional curb ramps at bus stop and along at least one sidewalk at Grandview Ave.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### ***Crosswalk, Curb Ramps***

At crosswalk between School and Facility, mitigate Curb Ramp transition level changes at gutter to sidewalk at Bracket School side and curb ramp cross slope and transition issues on facility side.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

## Access to Facility Areas

### ***Cooperative Learning Garden***

Structural: Grade and pave at least one accessible path leading to and within gated garden area from play area walkway.

Immediate Priority- Accurate Program Information: Ensure that public information about Cooperative Learning Garden, including at application and rules information (online and printed), provides accurate information specifying the plan and timeline for ensuring that Garden program will be accessible,

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Floor or Ground Surfaces and Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### ***Picnic Areas***

Add an accessible path off the trail to provide connection to at least one picnic table in each distinct picnic area; and, add at least one clear wheelchair location at these picnic table locations.

Long-Range: When new park furniture added, add at least one accessible picnic table within picnic area.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Route, Also see: Building Blocks, Knee and Toe Clearance*

**Playground Accessible entry/exit**

Provide a ramped entry or a level entry to both recessed playground areas. This entry point should be connected to accessible interior walkways.

**Playground Accessible Route**

a. If only loose fill ground surface materials are used, implement a high-frequency maintenance program to ensure accessibility of ground surface materials through all seasons.

b. If ground surface materials will be replaced: consider adding unitary surface materials within the playground areas to provide accessible routes and clear ground spaces to all entry/exit points of ground play elements, including swingsets, play structure transfer station, and ground play elements.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

**Fields**

Provide at least one accessible route linking the perimeter of field playing areas, team seating areas, and lawn seating areas to interior walkways

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

**Team Seating**

Provide at least one clear, level space for use by people using wheeled mobility devices at all team or player seating areas serving areas of sport activity.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site; and Building Blocks for Team or Player Seating.*

**Court**

Provide an accessible pathway linking Basketball Court hardtop to interior walkway.

**Access to Elements**

**Tables**

See Readily Achievable, Access to Facility Areas, Picnic Areas.

Long-Range: When new park furniture is added, add at least one accessible picnic table within picnic area.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site, Also see: Building Blocks, Knee and Toe Clearance*

### ***Benches***

When Play area accessible route issues are mitigated, ensure that at least one pair of play area benches in sunny and in shady locations are connected along the accessible route, with accessible width and slopes; and that these bench locations include an integrated clear, level space for a person using wheeled mobility devices to sit shoulder to shoulder with companions using benches. This clear space on either end of bench should be 30 inches width by 48 inches length, minimum.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site,*

### ***Signage***

Kiosk: Review signage requirements and reinstall as necessary.

Pathway, Rules signage: Ensure that signage is mounted within 5 feet of accessible route trails and text not higher than 60 inches above ground surface.

*Signage, Best Practice recommendations:*

Kiosk: Ensure that health information is posted with bottom line of text no lower than 40 inches and top line of text no higher than 60 inches.

Points of Entry signage: Consider adding Mapping signage at both walkway points of entry along Eastern Ave. to show the closest accessible route(s) to each program.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping for Signage, Designations; Communication Elements and Features for Signs.*



### **Robbins Farm ADA Recommendations**

- 1 Create at least one accessible walkway connection to all program areas, elements and amenities.
- 2 Establish entry/exit points between play areas and interior walkway.
- 3 Provide wheelchair seating location(s).
- 4 Replace or refresh ground surface materials for resilience and accessibility.
- 5 Mitigate curb ramp issues.
- 6 Connect facility to nearby public transit with accessible routes.
- 7 Place wayfinding signage at both interior walkway points of entry to show where each walkway leads.
- 8 Mount municipal notices between 40-70 inches above level ground area and along accessible route.



## Scannell Field

Scannell Field is adjacent to Linwood Circle and the South Beach portion of Spy Pond Park.

This Little League field does not require major renovations to become accessible within the perimeter of the site. There needs to be an accessible route to the perimeter of field play areas, to the two team dugout areas and to the bleachers. There also needs to be wider dugout lanes between the team benches and the field, along with a wheelchair seating location at each of the team benches. The Bleachers need to include accessible wheelchair locations and be along an accessible route.

The major Capital renovation issues involve the need to provide an accessible route connection between nearby transportation and streets/sidewalks to facility.

It may be possible for these pedestrian access issues to be addressed for Scannell Field at the same time as they are addressed for the south entry points of Spy Pond Park.

### **Location:**

Linwood Street, adjacent to Spy Pond South Beach shoreline

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Softball/little league field
- Spectator bleacher area
- 2 team dugouts
- access to bike path
- on-street parking

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits
- Public art sculpture
- Seasonal: sledding, annual community picnic.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

A pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Linwood St. and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway is not highly visible.

1 block prior to facility entry point, the intersection at Belknap and Linwood Streets lacks a crosswalk and curb ramps.

#### ***Curb Ramps***

There is no accessible approach to the facility entrance because of missing curb ramps and uneven sidewalks. A curb ramp is missing at the southwest corner intersection, Hamilton St. and Linwood St. (Photo 2)

On the north side of the Bikeway crosswalk, there is a change in level over 1/2 inch at the sidewalk transition, and there is no curb ramp.

#### ***Sidewalks***

At least one accessible route is not provided from public streets/sidewalks to entry points of facility.

Sidewalks are uneven and the reconstructed sidewalk panels around the rotary do not blend continuously with the older walkway panels.

The south sidewalk at Hamilton Street, just prior to facility, is uneven with water accumulation and needs maintenance.

The sidewalk adjoining facility and around rotary has excessive slopes, and needs maintenance. (Photo 3)



Photo 4

### ***On-street Parking***

There are no designated accessible parking spaces around Linwood Circle.

### ***Public Transit Access***

There is no accessible route provided from the nearest public transit stop, at Mass. Ave @ Foster St., to facility. Curb ramps are not provided at the Belknap St. and Hamilton Rd. intersections with Linwood St.

### ***Shared-Use Pathway***

Due to curb ramp and sidewalk issues, there is not currently an accessible route from the Bikeway/shared-use trail link at the intersection of Linwood St. and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway to Scannell Field. (Photo 4)



Photo 5

### ***Point of Entry***

There are gated points of entry around the fenced-in field and to the home and away-team dugouts. No entry points are connected to an accessible route. There is no firm, level and slip-free walkway to the fence limits, field, dugout areas or bleachers. (Photo 5)

### ***Gates***

There are several gates around the fence on east, south, west and north points; the north and east gates lead to the dugout areas. Each dugout includes an additional gate onto the baseball field.

Gates are missing a smooth surface or kickplate. There is no level, firm and slip-free ground surface. There is inadequate maneuvering clearance from dugout to field because the gate does not fully open to at least 36 inches.



Photo 6



Photo 7

## Access to Facility Areas

### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

### ***Interior Walkways***

There are no connecting interior walkways within facility. All general public circulation routes are on dirt and grass ground surface.

The ground surface is uneven instead of smooth, firm, level and slip resistant.

(Photo 7)



Photo 8

### ***Field Playing Areas***

There is no accessible route to the perimeter of the field playing areas because the surface is not firm, level, smooth and slip-free. The routes to field from dugouts are narrow because the configuration of bench platforms and walkways in front and in back of benches in dugouts does not provide at least a 36 inch wide firm, level, smooth and slip-free route to field playing areas.

(Photo 8)



Photo 9

### ***Team Seating Areas***

There are no accessible routes within the team seating areas. There is no accessible integrated wheelchair seating location within dugouts. (Photo 9)



*Photo 10*

### **Spectator Viewing Area- Bleachers**

There is one set of aluminum 5-row spectator bleachers, which seats approximately 70 persons.

These bleachers are at the field year-round, and were surveyed as a fixed-seating element.

The bleachers are not connected to an accessible route and do not provide any integrated accessible wheelchair seating locations. (Photo 10)



*Photo 11*

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Signage***

Informational signage is provided at field entry fence. Important information is separated into three different signs each mounted at different height on outside fence.

The signage is not accessible because it is not located along any accessible route or at a location that includes level, firm and slip-free clear ground space to approach and read the signs. (Photo 11)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### ***Crosswalk, Curb Ramps and Sidewalks***

Construct an accessible pedestrian route from Mass Ave to Linwood Circle. Add curb ramps where missing.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points.*

#### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

##### **Approach & Entry, Points of Entry**

Provide at least one accessible route from Linwood Circle to the signed entry gate, which also connects with:

- informational signage.
- spectator viewing areas, and
- other public-use gated entry points around field

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Within a Site*

#### **Gates**

1. Ensure that all gates are along at least 1 accessible route.
2. Ensure that ground surface to and under all entry gates is firm, smooth, level and slip-free.
3. Where necessary, adjust gate and ground surface levels so gates open 90 degrees to at least a 36 inch opening
4. When alterations made, install smooth gate hardware, or kickplate, on push side of gate.
5. This applies to home and away-team dugout gates in addition to all field perimeter public-use gates.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Swinging Doors and Gates and Door and Gate Opening Force and Door and gate Surfaces*

#### **Access to Facility Areas**

##### ***Interior Walkways***

Install at least one interior accessible route from signed entry gate to connect to:

- both dugout areas,
- at least 1 trash receptacle if provided;
- at least one accessible water spout if provided.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

### **Team Seating**

1. Reconfigure bench platforms within dugouts to ensure that at least 1 accessible route with minimum 48 inches is provided from accessible walkways adjoining dugout through front of team bench. This route needs to connect to gate and to lead to perimeter of field playing area.
2. At both dugouts, provide at least one integrated wheelchair location with a clear ground space of minimal 36 inches width and 48 inches length.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes for Within a Site and Team or Player Seating*

### **Bleachers**

1. Provide at least one accessible route to and around bleacher area.

2. Until alterations are made, provide at least one integrated wheelchair seating location at both bleacher areas that adjoins an accessible route.

3. When alterations occur, purchase and install one set of accessible bleachers with integrated wheelchair and companion seating along an accessible route.

*For additional information, please refer to MAAB Standards at 521 CMR §14.2*

### **Information Signage**

Standardize Department Field signage format and mounting heights so that information is consolidated where necessary. Ensure that signage is re-mounted along accessible route.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Signs, Directional and Informational Signs.*



### **Scannell Field ADA Recommendations**

- 1** Create an accessible route from nearest public transit stop to facility.
- 2** Provide at least one accessible route that connects sidewalk to facility signage, entry gates, home and away-team seating areas, bleacher area, any public-use field gates, and any amenities, such as season portable toilets and drinking fountains.
- 3** Provide wheelchair seating locations at benches and bleachers.



## Sports Complex Site Arrival Points

This **Sports Complex Site Arrival Points** facility report examines issues related to accessible routes from site arrival points to the accessible entrances serving each of the 4 municipal facilities located within the perimeter of the Sports Center site. These facilities are: **Summer Street Park, Ed Burns Arena, Buck Field and Hills Hill.**<sup>30</sup>

From 1991 ADA Standards: Accessible Routes, 4.3.2 Location:

- (1) *At least one accessible route within the boundary of the site shall be provided from public transportation stops, accessible parking, and accessible passenger loading zones, and public streets or sidewalks to the accessible building entrance they serve. The accessible route shall, to the maximum extent feasible, coincide with the route for the general public.*
- (2) *At least one accessible route shall connect accessible buildings, facilities, elements, and spaces that are on the same site.*<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Please also see detailed element-by-element survey reports for each of these facilities in Part C-Evaluation of Facilities.

<sup>31</sup> The 2010 ADA Standards add the term "facility" in

### **Public Streets and Sidewalks Surveyed:**

The following public streets and sidewalks were reconstructed with new crosswalks, curb ramps and/or sidewalks:

- Bow St. at Forest St.
- Forest St. and Summer St.
- Summer St. and Ryder St.
- Overlook Road and Summer St.

These streetscape projects affected accessibility for the **Points of Entry surveyed** within the Sports Center, listed below.

### **Parking Facilities Surveyed:**

#### **Summer St. Park:**

- Parking spaces along Ryder St.

#### **Ed Burns Arena, Buck Field, Hill's Hill**

- Parking facility, Sports Center

### **Public Transit stop nearest to Sports Center:**

- Summer St. @ Ryder St. Route 67.

### **Points of Entry Surveyed:**

#### **Summer St. Park:**

- two points of entry along Forest St.
- two points of entry along Ryder St.

#### **Ed Burns Arena:**

- Entranceway adjacent to parking facility

#### **Buck Field:**

- Entry adjacent to Sports Center parking facility (shared with Hill's Hill);
- Point of entry to Team Clubhouse

#### **Hill's Hill:**

Shared point of entry adjacent to parking facility.

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this scoping requirement, and modifies the order of arrival points as follows: **206.2.1. Site Arrival Points.** At least one *accessible* route shall be provided within the *site* from *accessible* parking spaces and *accessible* passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the *accessible building or facility entrance* they serve.

**Department of Justice ADA 2010 Standards: Titles II and III**



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Summer St. Park

### Site Arrival Points

#### ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit***

##### Bow St. at Forest St.

Crosswalk at Bow St. is approximately 118 feet from the line of work limit for sidewalk reconstruction adjacent to Summer St. Park facility.

This crosswalk lacks curb ramps and does not provide an accessible route to any point of entry for the Summer Park facility. Staircase at this point of entry lacks handrails. (Photo 1)

##### Forest St. at Summer St. (Rte. 2A)

Three crosswalks and 6 curb ramps with tactile strips were provided at the forked intersection at Forest St. and Summer St. (Rte. 2A). An entryway with terraced stairs was also constructed at this site arrival point. Staircase lacks handrails on both sides and there is no accessible route provided at this location. (Photo 2)

Crosswalks, sidewalks and curb ramps were completed with noncomplying features including:

- Excessive cross slopes at sidewalk panels adjacent to three Accessible Pedestrian Signal controls (APS);
- Curb ramps are not oriented into crosswalks;
- Excessive cross slopes in sidewalk routes between new curb ramps;
- Sidewalk joints over 1/2 inch width; and
- Curb ramp transitions at gutter are in disrepair. (Photo 3)



Photo 4

Summer St. at Ryder St:

Crosswalks approximately 123 feet from an entrance onto Summer St. Park along Rte. 2A have compliant curb ramps but walkways along Rte. 2A to crossing at Summer St. & Ryder have excessive run slopes (over 5%). A sidewalk of approximately 70 feet extends from the top of the hill towards Summer St. Park. (Photo 4)

Due to natural terrain issues, this sidewalk needs to be ramped, with handrails. Cross slopes can be mitigated to compliance; run slopes will exceed 5%. (Photo 5)

The line of work for this sidewalk ends prior to the Summer St. point of entry and the stone dust path does not provide an accessible site arrival point into the Park. (Photo 6)



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

### **Parking**

On Summer Park facility side, sidewalk ends prior to facility point of entry (between two small pillars). A parking space is marked in front of sidewalk, thus obstructing pedestrian routes from sidewalk into Summer St. Park entrance. (Photo 7)

Beyond this entry point are approximately 12 additional parking spaces adjacent to Summer Street Park that are not connected by a pedestrian accessible route to Summer Street Park or to any of the facility entry points and amenities within the Sports Complex, including the perimeter sidewalk around the Ed Burns Arena. There is no designated van-accessible or accessible parking space along this group of parking spaces. There is no pedestrian accessible crossing route between this parking area and other pedestrian routes, bikeway connections, and outdoor areas within the Sports complex. (Photo 8)



Photo 8

### **Points of Entry**

Summer St. Park has two points of entry at Forest St. and both entries have staircases and no accessible points of entry. The staircases lack handrails on either side and do not adjoin an accessible route from entry to boundary of sports playing fields, team seating area and bleacher areas. (See Photos 1 & 2)



Photo 9

Along Ryder Street, marked point of entry is an eroding stone dust path. This path has excessive cross slopes and does not connect via an accessible route to any other facility program areas. (Photo 9)



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

## Ed Burns Arena

### Site Arrival Points

#### ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit***

##### Overlook Rd. and Summer St. (Rte. 2A)

A crosswalk was added approximately 110 feet SE of Sports Arena sign along Rte. 2A, with 2 compliant curb ramps that include tactile strips.

An additional crosswalk is located at the wide diameter corners crossing Overlook Rd. at Summer St.

Although curb ramp slopes are compliant, the curb ramps at Overlook Road are not oriented into the crosswalk and do not provide safe access to either side of this street. Sidewalks have excessive cross slopes. (Photo 10)

##### Summer St. (Rte. 2A) and Ryder St.

Two Crosswalks and 4 curb ramps with tactile strips were provided at the intersection at Ryder St. and Summer St. (Rte. 2A)., NW of facility.

Crosswalk curb ramps have compliant slopes; however, walkways have slightly excessive run and cross slopes.

Curb ramp adjacent to Sports Center sign leads to a partial sidewalk into site. (Photo 11)

Sidewalk is approximately 50 feet in length, ending at Sports Center parking facility exit opening. Due to terrain issues, this sidewalk has excessive run slopes and should be treated as a ramp, with handrails. (Photo 12)

##### Minuteman Bikeway (shared use path) access

When street reconstruction occurs at points south of Sports Center site, it will be important to scope project so that it includes program access to nearby Bikeway access point. This will provide additional multi-modal transportation support to points of entry at Summer Street Park, Ed Burns Arena and also to the Hill's Hill dog walking path located at rear of that facility.

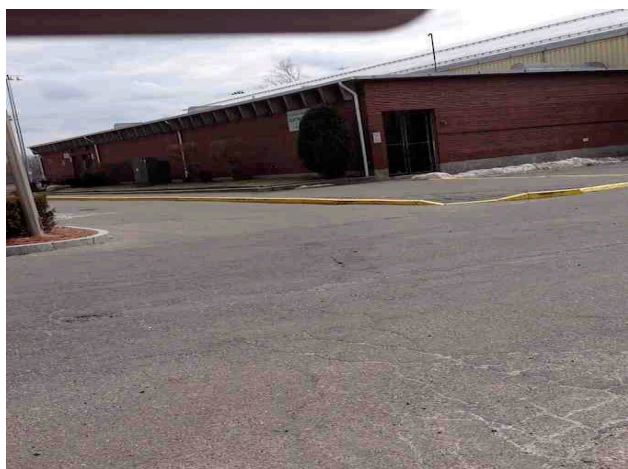


Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15

### **Parking**

Please see **Parking** issues described within at Ed Burns Arena Facility Report, Part C- Evaluation of Facilities.

### **Points of Entry**

Approach and entry points include facility perimeter sidewalk running along Ryder Street facility side to the facility entrance opposite parking facility's front spaces. This is old infrastructure that includes inaccessible curb ramps, inaccessible walkways, and inaccessible sidewalk. These pedestrian route elements do not provide safe or accessible pedestrian passage between Summer St. Park and other Sports Complex facility entrances; or, from Route 2A crosswalks and sidewalks along Ryder St. from points north or from points south. (Photo 13)

Approach and entry points also include Parking facility route components: two crosswalks with inaccessible curb ramps connecting to inaccessible facility perimeter sidewalk. These pedestrian route elements do not provide accessible routes to approach and enter facility.

Facility entrance doors provide at-grade entrance on one side, connected to an additional walkway path extending from west corner of facility perimeter sidewalk. Entrance is not along an accessible route because the walkway, curb ramps and crosswalks connecting this walkway to site arrival points are not along an accessible route.

For more information, please see **Points of Entry** issues described within the Ed Burns Arena Facility Report, Part C- Evaluation of Facilities.



Photo 16



Photo 17

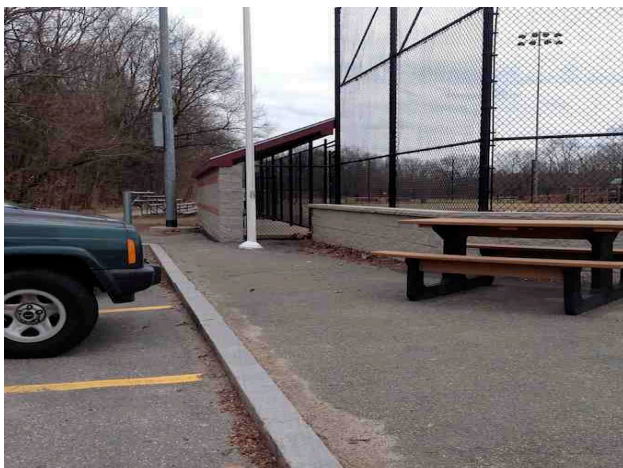


Photo 18

## Buck Field

### Site Arrival Points

#### ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit***

Please see issues described above, at Ed Burns Arena, ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit***

#### ***Parking***

Buck Field and Hill's Hill share an entrance adjacent to the Sports Arena parking facility; individuals participating in programs at this facility do not have an accessible parking space available close to this entrance.

Route from Sports Center parking facility to this shared entrance is not smooth, level and slip-free. An accessible route must be provided from accessible parking spaces to this shared point of entry. (Photo 16)

Buck Field also provides programs outside facility fence and within Sports Center site, which include the Batting Practice area, and the Bleacher area for Buck Field sports. There is no accessible route from designated parking spaces to either of these program areas. (Photo 17)

Along the sidewalks adjacent to parking spaces closest to Buck Field program areas, the sidewalk is narrow and inaccessible. At one area, en route between Bleachers and Entrance, a picnic table obstructs pedestrian passage. (Photo 18)

#### ***Points of Entry***

Shared point of entry with Hill's Hill is described in more detail, below at **Hill's Hill, Point of Entry**.



Photo 19

## Hill's Hill

### Site Arrival Points

**Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit**  
Please see issues described above, at Ed Burns Arena, **Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit**

### Parking

Please see description at Buck Field, **Parking**,



Photo 20

### Site Arrival Points

Hill's Hill and Buck Field have a shared point of entry adjacent to the Sports Center parking facility.

Sidewalk path to facility has excessive cross slopes and is not level. There is no smooth, level and accessible entrance area into the Buck Field/ Hill's Hill facilities at this point of entry.

This point of entry is used as a service entrance for maintenance and needs to provide a smooth, level, firm, slip free route without water and other weather event accumulation. There are currently no accessible route components provided at this point of entry. (Photos 19, 20)

## Recommendations, Sports Center Site Arrival Points

### Summer St. Park

#### Site Arrival Points

##### ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit Forest St.***

1. Install accessible sidewalk and curb ramps at Bow St. crosswalk crossing Forest St. (about 115 feet, 2 curb ramps)
2. Regrade where most feasible along sidewalk at this crosswalk onto Summer St. Park (about 33 ft.)
3. Install accessible interior walkway from this crosswalk to connect with little league field, NE (about 300 feet) and to fitness path, SW (about 200 ft.)

##### Ryder St., western sidewalk

1. From Rte. 2A to Summer St. Park entry point, ramp and extend sidewalk. Include handrails. (Eliminate parallel parking space that obstructs pedestrian route.) (About 130 feet)
2. Install marked crosswalk to intersect with pedestrian route and curb ramp on opposite side.

#### ***Parking***

1. Reconfigure parking as needed to accommodate wider Summer St. entrance point. which is reciprocal to curb ramp opposite new marked crosswalk. This may involve creating slanted parking spaces.
2. Install 1 accessible parking space with access aisle. (Striping can be either 96 + 96 inches; or, 132 + 60 inches)

#### ***Point of Entry***

1. Relocate point of entry about 5 feet SW if needed to accommodate a straight crosswalk between Summer St. Park and reciprocal curb ramp at Ed Burns Arena facility perimeter sidewalk (Ryder St.)

2. Ensure that this point of entry is at least 36 inches width, ground surface is paved, level, with cross slopes not exceeding 2.08%; and that this point of entry is connected to new interior walkway within facility.

3. Extend interior walkway from play area to point of entry. (about 150 feet)

### Ed Burns Arena

#### Site Arrival Points

##### ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit Ryder St., eastern sidewalk<sup>32</sup>***

1. On Arena facility side, reconstruct sidewalk as a ramp with handrails, at least one mid-level landing, and extending from curb ramp adjacent to Rte. 2A Sports Complex sign to parking facility opening (*ramped walkway = about 50 feet*).

2. Provide a cut-through route, equal to width of ramp, with 2 crosswalks, that extends from ramp to facility corner, crossing the two parking lot openings and through the landscape separator feature.

Provide crosswalks at each opening, and a tactile strip at each end of both crosswalks. (*approximately 80 feet, 2 crosswalk markings, 4 tactile strips, cut- through landscaping and*

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<sup>32</sup> These recommendations also included in Ed Burns Arena Survey report, Part C- Evaluation of Facilities

*construction costs).*

3. When redesigning Arena entryway and perimeter sidewalk, include a crosswalk between facility north corner and Summer St. Park entry/exit point. There should be a perpendicular curb ramp oriented towards Summer St. Park.

#### 2. Minuteman Bikeway (shared use path) access

When streetscape alterations are planned along Ryder St. and nearby streets south of Sports Center, ensure that scope of project includes a sidewalk along Arena facility, connecting Minuteman Bikeway Shared Use Path access point to facility perimeter walkway. (about 350 feet)

#### ***Parking***

Please see Recommendations, ***Parking*** at Ed Burns Arena Facility Report, Part C- Evaluation of Facilities.

#### ***Point of Entry***

Please see Recommendations, ***Point of Entry, Entrance, Sidewalks, and Curb Ramps*** at Ed Burns Arena Facility Report, Part C- Evaluation of Facilities.

## **Buck Field**

### **Site Arrival Points**

#### ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit Parking***

#### ***Points of Entry***

Please see Ed Burns Arena Facility report for Streets and Sidewalks Recommendations at *Pedestrian Crosswalks, Sidewalks and Curb ramps*. For Parking, please see Buck Field

Facility Survey at Part C- Evaluation of Facilities, for Recommendations at *Parking*. For Point of Entry, Please see Buck Field Facility Survey at Part C- Evaluation of Facilities, for Recommendations at *Points of Entry*.

## **Hill's Hill**

### **Site Arrival Points**

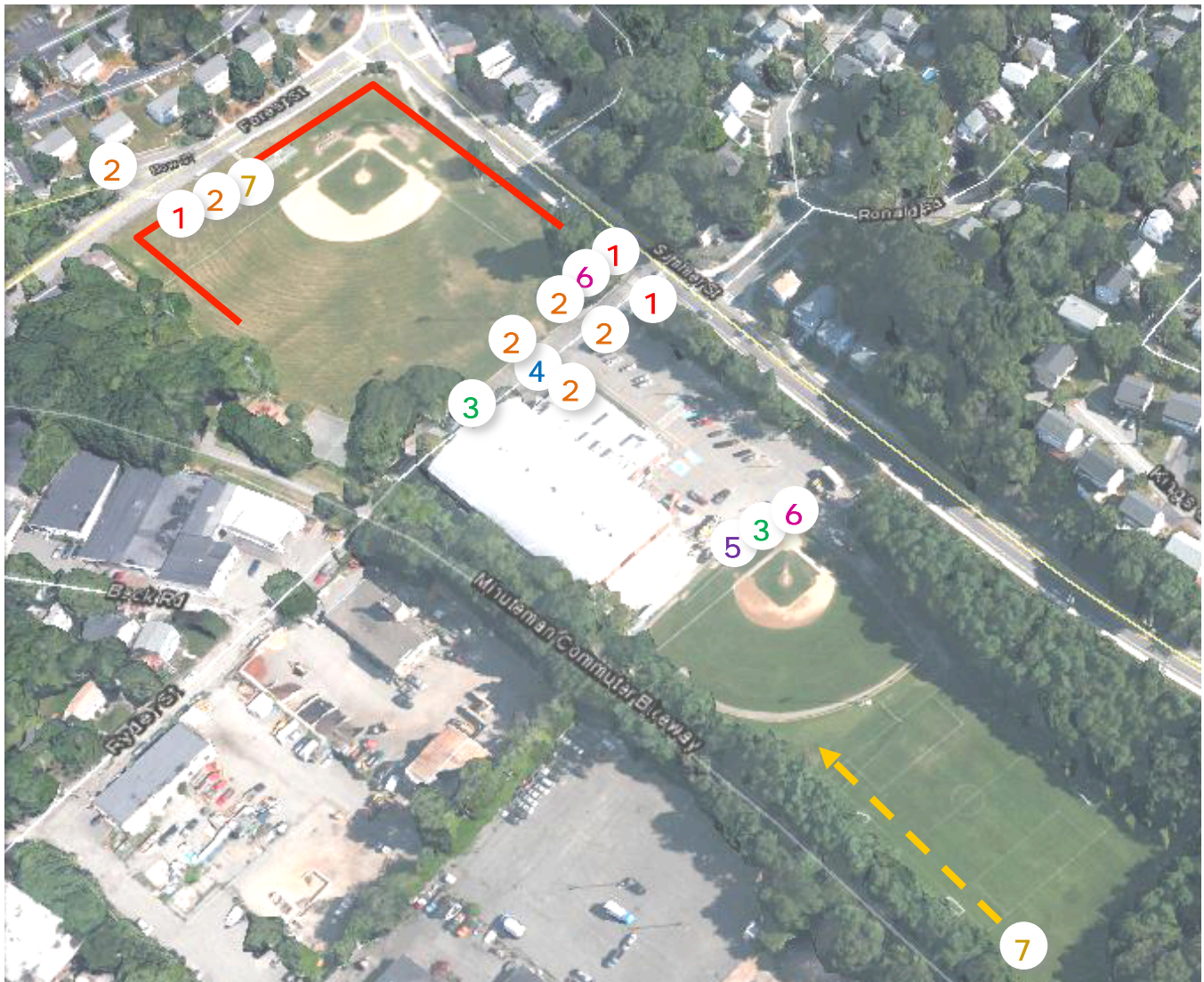
#### ***Public Streets and Sidewalks, Public Transit Parking***

#### ***Points of Entry***

Hills' Hill Site Arrival Points Recommendations are the same as those for Buck Field, above.

*For additional information, please refer to 2006 MAAB Regulations 521 CMR §24 RAMPS-entire section; and*

*2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Ramps and Parking; and, see Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Location and Site Arrival Points*



### **Sports Complex ADA Recommendations**

- 1** Install ramped walkway.
- 2** Add curb ramp with tactile strips.
- 3** Install van-accessible parking spots.
- 4** Install marked crosswalk.
- 5** Mitigate walkway slopes and width to accessible route.
- 6** Eliminate obstructions within pedestrian path.
- 7** Add interior walkway to connect all facility programs along one route.



## Spy Pond Field & Tennis Courts

**Spy Pond Field & Tennis Courts** is a lovely large facility conveniently located opposite the Boys and Girls Club and within walking distance to Massachusetts Avenue, 2 public transit stops and the Spy Pond Park, shoreline paths and Playground.

The beautiful *Play Fair* arch and the Hornblower Field are included as notable civic and open space landmarks by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association.

Required Capital Project renovations include the need for at least 1 accessible walkway around entire interior perimeter of facility, which connects the programs offered at Hornblower Field, public tennis courts, softball field, dog walking circulation path, and links to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway.

A high priority programmatic renovation is to construct an accessible spectator seating area and ensure that the clubhouse is accessible in order to provide inclusive spectator and team sports participation.

### Location:

Pond Lane, across from Boy's and Girl's Club (60 Pond Lane).

### Year Built:

Early 20th c. (Play Fair Arch donated 1912)

### Known Renovations since 1991:

Unknown

### Primary Function Areas Surveyed:

- Play Fair Arch Grandstand + Hornblower Field
- 1 large open field used for soccer
- 4 tennis courts, 2 points of entry
- Dog Walk Path
- Interior Walkway linking w/ Minuteman Commuter Bikeway
- 3 staircase points of entry
- On-street parking.

### Public Programs:

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits
- Home of Arlington High School varsity baseball team
- Spy Ponder Baseball Clinic



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

A crosswalk and new curb ramp is located in front of the Boys & Girls Club and opposite the South Tennis Courts/Field gate. Crosswalk lacks reciprocal curb ramp curb on facility side. Curb ramp has multiple noncomplying features. (Photo 1)

There are no crosswalks around perimeter of facility at intersections of Lombard Terrace/Wellington St; or, at Pond Lane turn at southeast gate to fields.

The crosswalk at Whittemore St. @ Mass. Ave. is old brick infrastructure with multiple tripping hazards. The Whittemore St. connection onto the fields is not at grade.

#### ***Curb Ramps***

The new curb ramp on the Boys & Girls club crosswalk side opposite facility has multiple noncomplying issues, including excessive cross and run slopes, no flared sides for sidewalk passage, excessive level changes at the gutter-to-street transition. There is no reciprocal curb ramp provided at this crosswalk. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

Northwest, northeast and west facility entry points are along incompletely constructed sidewalks at Lombard Terrace and Wellington St.

South and southeast facility entry points are not located along any accessible routes, and sidewalks are incomplete or missing. (Photo 3)



Photo 4

### ***On-street Parking***

On-street parking is provided along south and west perimeter of facility. No accessible parking spaces are provided and there are no accessible crossings between parking and facility. (Photo 4)

### ***Public Transit Access***

There is no accessible route provided from the two nearby fixed bus routes to an accessible facility entry point.

The stops are at Massachusetts Ave near Pond Lane and Massachusetts Ave near Whittemore St. and serve 3 public transit routes (77, 79, 350).

A pedestrian connection from the end of Whittemore Street via the tunnel/walkway onto the facility southeast paved field walkway includes 4 stone-slab stairs with approximately 7-inch risers but no accessible or ramped route. (Photo 5)



Photo 5

### ***Points of Entry***

There are 9 public entry points around the facility perimeter marked by stairs, gates and fence openings. None are currently accessible. (Graphic 1)

At least 60% of entrances need to adjoin an accessible route (public rights of ways) and provide accessible elements such as accessible gates, ramp entrances, widths, slopes, maneuvering clearance, hardware height and ground surfaces.

Public rights of ways around this facility include two Minuteman Bikeway links, two public transit stops, Lombard Road, Lombard Terrace, Wellington Street, Pond Lane, Pond Terrace, and Whittemore St.



Graphic 1



Photo 6

### ***Entry Points, cont.***

NW, North, NE: Three entry points along Lombard Terrace include 2 staircases from streets to field and one entry at the Play Fair Arch and down the Grandstand to Hornblower fields. The NE Stairs also connect users to the nearby Shared-Use Bikeway Trail. (Photo 6)

W: Gated entrance to northwest Tennis Courts does not connect to any accessible route, or sidewalk. (Photo 7)

SW: Paved entryway at south gate to Tennis Courts and Fields is in a state of disrepair and does not include accessible slopes or a level ground surface route via sidewalk on either side and is not an accessible entrance. This is the main facility entry point, and includes the Tennis Court Rules Signage. (Photo 8)

SE: On SE of facility, there are three entry points. Each of these lack ground surfaces with accessible slopes and first two are unpaved:

1. Fence opening onto an interior walkway, with Dog Walk Rules sign (Photo 9);
2. At the end of Whittemore Street via the tunnel/walkway onto the facility southeast paved field walkway (Photo 5); and
3. Pathway from the shared-use Minuteman Bikeway trail above field, which connects onto facility SE field walkway. (Photo 10)



Photo 7



Photo 8

### ***Gates***

Two public gated entry points from public streets to facility are not along an accessible route and do not provide smooth, firm, level and slip-free ground surfaces. West Tennis Court gate does not open to at least 32 inches. Pond Lane gate approach is obstructed by on-street parking, lack of sidewalk route, and a paved entryway that is in disrepair with excessive cross slopes and tripping hazards. Gates require smooth surface or kickplate on push side. (Photo 8)



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11

## Access to Facility Areas

### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

### ***Interior Walkways***

There is a paved walkway extending from two gate openings on Pond Lane and Pond Terrace that connects south field to the shared-use pathway. (Photo 9)

This path can be improved and extended to provide the necessary level-graded accessible path linking all facility areas- including both court areas, all perimeters of field playing areas, the clubhouse, grandstand and team bench areas, plus all accessible points of entry-, along at least one accessible route within perimeter of facility. (Photo 10)

### ***Stairways***

The historic concrete structures at Hornblower field (Play Fair Arch and Grandstand bleachers) are accessed by stairways along both ends and through the middle. Stair concrete is spalling and stairs require careful repairs in order to be safe and to retain historic character. When Grandstand is repaired, it may be possible to add continuous handrails going up to Lombard St. at one or two staircases along Grandstand. (Photo 11)

A long-range recommendation is for the 4-stair entry at the Whittemore St. underpass to be replaced with a ramped accessible entrance onto facility SE field. (See Photo 5, above)



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14

### **Courts**

Four Tennis courts are not along an accessible route from either the exterior public rights of ways or from the interior walkways and field areas adjacent to gates. Benches are also provided at each court area and are not located along an accessible route. (Photo 12)

### **Fields**

Fields need to be connected along an interior accessible pathway that connects the perimeter of soccer and baseball fields playing areas, team seating areas, and the clubhouse. This accessible route also needs to connect to at least one accessible entry into Tennis Courts from fields. (Photo 13)

### **Spectator Grandstand<sup>33</sup>**

The historic Play Fair Arch and grandstand spectator seating at the Hornblower baseball field has 10 tiers and 3 stair entry points at top (Lombard Terrace) and at bottom (field), providing seating for at least 2000 persons. This seating area is inaccessible because there are no ramped entry points to any tiers or sections at either top or bottom. (Photo 14)

A minimum % integrated wheelchair seating spaces locations needs to be provided plus adjacent companion seating. Seating should be dispersed to provide a variety of views, as is provided to the general public.

### **Team Seating**

There needs to be an accessible route connected to the Team seating locations, and all Team meeting locations. Each team seating locations needs to provide a clear ground space for accessible integrated wheelchair seating. (Photo 11, above)

<sup>33</sup> Also note comments re: Grandstand repair issues, under **Stairways** (Photo 11)



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17

### ***Clubhouse***

There is a Clubhouse facility located near backstop at Hornblower Field. Interior of seasonal clubhouse was locked during ADA Survey timeline. Clubhouse is not along at least one accessible route. (Photo 15)

All spaces, elements and amenities within clubhouse, including equipment storage, clothing hooks, drinking fountains, counters, shelves, etc. that are utilized by team members must be along an accessible route, placed within accessible reach ranges via parallel or forward approaches, inclusive of wheelchair seating locations if other seating elements are built-in; and include at least one turning space with at least a 60 inch diameter to allow for unrestricted circulation into and out of clubhouse.

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Benches***

Team seating and waiting benches are located within Tennis Court areas and at Hornblower Field home and away team locations. Benches are not located along an accessible route. Benches do not include backrests or arm rests.

#### ***Informational Signage***

Dog Walking information signage is posted at the Fence Opening entry point near Pond Terrace. (Photo 16)

Tennis Court Rules signage is posted at the South Tennis Court Gates. (Photo 17)

Information signs are not currently mounted along an unobstructed accessible route. Facility Rules signage also needs to provide contact information regarding how to obtain alternate accessible formats, upon request, of rules and facility informational signage.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach and Entrance

##### ***Pedestrian Crosswalks, Sidewalks and Curb Ramps***

1. Accessible route from south: Reconstruct crosswalks, sidewalks and curb ramps from Mass. Ave @ Franklin public transit stops to Pond Lane Facility entrance at south Tennis Courts, opposite Boys and Girls Club.

*Note:* This TIP will also provide necessary pedestrian accessible route to the Spy Pond Park North beach facility.

2. Accessible route from west- public transit and Bikeway link: Construct an accessible route along at least one sidewalk, from Massachusetts Avenue at Whittemore Street to underpass at Whittemore Street; and continue to links with SE field paved walkway.

3. Construct accessible route from north- public transit and on-street parking.

4. Construct accessible route from Pleasant Street @ Addison St. to Lombard and down Wellington St. to intersection of Wellington and Pond Lane.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points*

##### ***Grandstand***

Construct an additional accessible spectator seating area to the right of the grandstand. There should be at least 20 wheelchair spaces dispersed in this area; each with a companion seat adjacent on either side; and along an accessible route connected to other facility spaces and elements.

*Note:* Provision of accessible, integrated seating and accessible route connections along clubhouse, on-deck circles, catcher/umpire stand, and home plate is a high priority program accessibility item.

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach and Entrance

##### ***Curb Ramps and Sidewalk***

Boys and Girls Club crosswalk:  
Reconstruct noncomplying curb ramp on Boys and Girls side of crosswalk and add reciprocal curb ramp facility side of crosswalk. Add sidewalk at least 36 inches wide along perimeter of facility from intersection of Pond Lane and Wellington St. to South Tennis Entrance gate near crosswalk.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points.*

### **Parking**

Add parking restriction signage near SW facility gate and crosswalk to prevent cars from obstructing south entrance.

Maintenance: Snow Removal Policy should prioritize maintenance of clear paths between parking lot entry/exit points to municipal facility entry/exit points.

### **Points of Entry, Signage**

NW, North, NE: Install directional signage at Lombard Terrace staircase entry points to Hornblower Field and also at Play Fair arch informing users where a no-step entrance is located (SW Main entrance).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Signs, Directional and Informational Signs.*

### **Points of Entry, Signage, Gates**

West Tennis Court gate: Pave and widen entry gate to open 90 degrees to at least 32 in. width entry, and add an interior walkway of at least 48 inches width leading to and adjoining bench and courts at Wellington St. tennis courts.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Swinging Doors and Gates and Door and Gate Opening Force and Door and gate Surfaces*

### **Points of Entry, Accessible Route**

SW Tennis Courts Entry: Reconstruct paved entryway to Tennis Courts and install route to field playing areas. Entranceway panels should connect with accessible sidewalk and curb cut from crosswalk; and, extend full width of entry onto field.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Within a Site*

SE: see walkways, signage.

### **Gates**

After sidewalk accessible route installed, ensure that all Tennis Court gates on field and sidewalks can be opened to at least 32 inches along smooth, level slip-free ground surface.

Install smooth surface or kickplate hardware on W and S gates.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Swinging Doors and Gates and Door and Gate Opening Force and Door and gate Surfaces*

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### **Interior Walkways**

1. Widen SE paved walkway where necessary to provide consistent smooth width of at least 32 in. from fence openings at Pond Lane and Pond Terrace through to connection above field, at shared-use Bikeway trail. At Pond Lane, adjoin path to street with attention to leveling at transition line.

Maintenance: Attend to SE walkway cracking, level changes, and smoothness issues.

2. When Capital Improvements take place: Install paved walkway connecting to SE paved walkway that connects to at least 60% of site

arrival points; and provides at least one accessible route connection to:

- Both Tennis court entrances from field gates and sidewalk;
- Point of entry to south field and team meeting area;
- Field playing area of Hornblower Field;
- Both team seating areas at Hornblower Field;
- Clubhouse at Hornblower Field;
- Spectator seating at Hornblower field;
- Around the entire perimeter of the field; and
- Connect with all accessible entry points.

Walkway should adjoin accessible seating at grandstand, team clubhouse, and field and court benches. Walkway should also be connected by at least one pedestrian accessible route to field markers, paved entry points, Pond Lane crosswalk and curb cuts, and to at least one accessible parallel on-street parking space.

### **Signage**

Provide directional signage at all inaccessible points of entry informing users of nearest accessible entrance.

Mount all informational and directional signage so that it can be approached and viewed from at least 5 feet forward approach along an accessible route.

Include Staff contact information and online information website to access information and Rules signage in alternate accessible formats, such as digitally (online) in .txt or .brf (Braille-ready format); and also in print as Large Print and Brailled information. These resources should be readily available online and upon request.

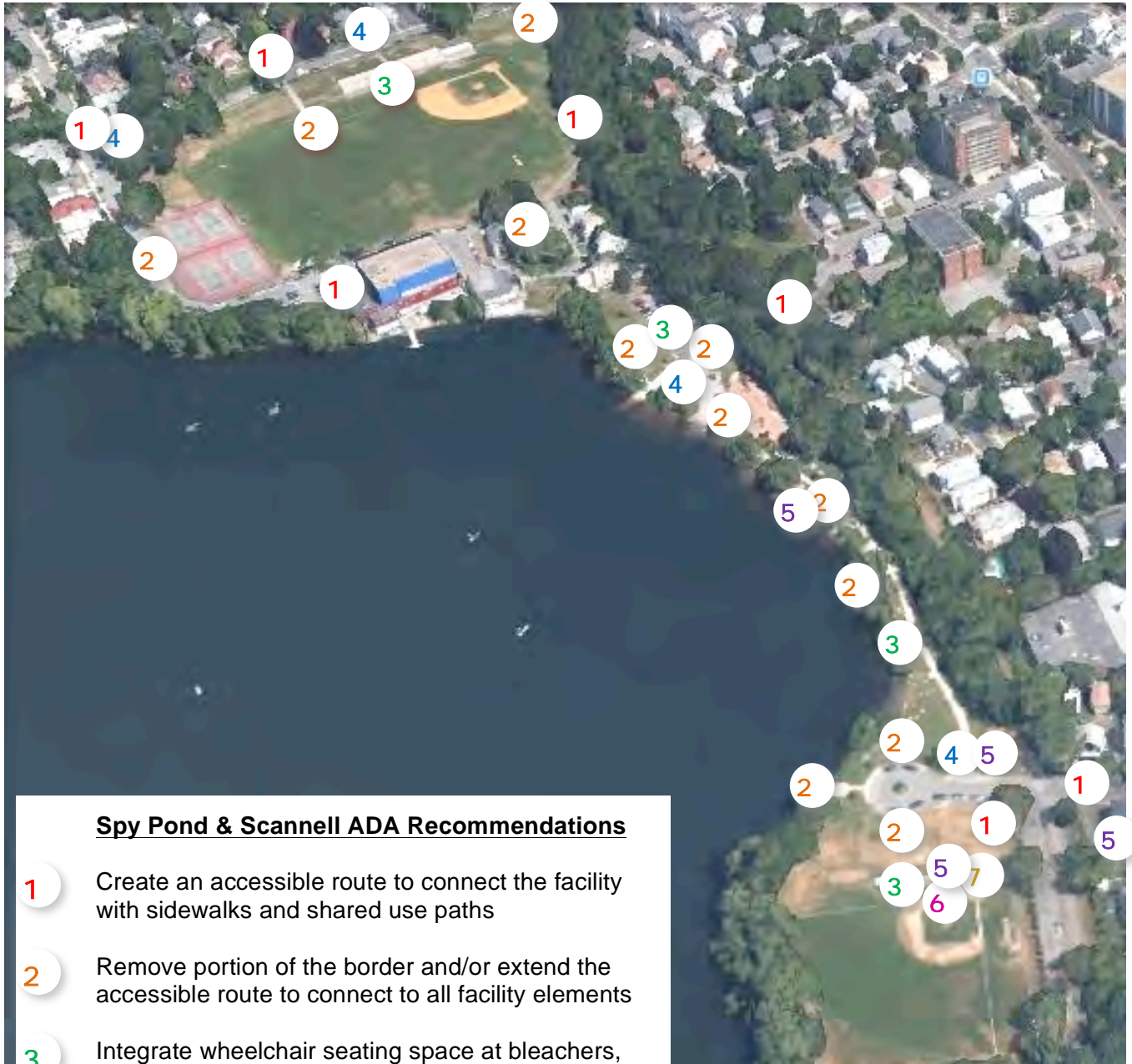
*For additional information, please refer to ADA Title II Requirements for Effective Communications, 28 CFR 35.160-35.164 and, 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Signs*

### **Access to Amenities**

#### **Trash Receptacles**

Ensure that all Trash Receptacles adjoin accessible walkway route, including at Dog Walking paths.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps; and, Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points Within a Site*



### **Spy Pond & Scannell ADA Recommendations**

- 1** Create an accessible route to connect the facility with sidewalks and shared use paths
- 2** Remove portion of the border and/or extend the accessible route to connect to all facility elements
- 3** Integrate wheelchair seating space at bleachers, benches and tables
- 4** Add informational and directional signage
- 5** Ensure signage is mounted at correct height
- 6** Add kickplate on gates
- 7** Add ramp with handrails
- 8** Ensure that policies include service animals and specific contact information for accommodations



## Spy Pond Park

**Spy Pond Memorial Park & Playground** is a unique facility that received major renovations in 2006, including the level grading of a shoreline path connecting the facilities at the North Beach to the amenities at the South Beach, which is adjacent to Scannell Field.

The shoreline path has expanded accessibility by provision of a mostly level path connecting the facility along the shore. This path includes viewing locations, picnic areas and benches closer to the shoreline that are not yet accessible.

A Boat Ramp provides programs that are currently inaccessible, such as Learn to Row programs, canoe and kayak rentals, and ferries to Elizabeth Island during Fun Day.

A path to water's edge at the North Beach Sitting Wall was designed with accessibility in mind. With further improvements, such as a necessary turning space at the bottom, this path can be an additional accessible advantage of visiting and enjoying one of Arlington's most unique and beautiful facilities.

### **Location:**

North shore of Spy Pond off Pond Lane.

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

Major Renovations completed since 2006 include:

- Unifying the shoreline path,
- New boat ramp,
- Sitting Wall
- Installation of picnic tables and benches on cement platforms
- Addition of new water fountains, signs, trees, and flowering plants.
- Parking facility and some portions of sidewalk received partial reconstruction

### **Primary Function areas surveyed:**

- Parking facility (North)
- Boat Ramp (North)
- Shoreline Path (North to South)
- Overlook Park with installed historic information (North)
- Sitting Wall (North)
- Playground (North)
- Signage and Bulletin Boards (South)
- Points of access to Bikeway and shared-use trails

### **Public Programs:**

- Arlington Recreation Arlington-Belmont Crew Learn to Row grades 8 -10
- Canoe and Kayak Rentals,
- Summer Park Festivals and Events
- Programs sponsored by Arlington Arts Center, *Garden* Club, Friends of Spy Pond Park
- Links to Minuteman Bikeway Trail



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Approach and Entrance

### ***Pedestrian Crosswalks***

At least one accessible route is not provided from public transit stops to entry points of facility.

North Beach: There are no crosswalks around perimeter of facility at northern Pond Lane entry points.

South Beach: There is a crosswalk on Linwood St. that leads onto the Minuteman Bikeway Path. It is not highly visible from 200 feet. (Photo 1)

Pedestrian access to Spy Pond shoreline path from Linwood St. crosswalk is inaccessible because a stone barrier at the entry point blocks it. Sidewalk from crosswalk to this entry point has noncomplying slopes and discontinuous surfaces with excessive level changes and gaps, requiring maintenance. (Photo 2)

### ***Curb Ramps***

A curb ramp is provided at the North Beach Parking Lot in front of the 2 HP-designated spaces that share an access aisle. This inaccessible element has excessive cross slopes, excessive gaps and excessive level changes at gutter-to-ramp and ramp-to-sidewalk transitions. It lacks clear turning space and leads to a sidewalk with excessive slopes. (Photo 3)

There is also a limited built-up ramp in front of the Boat Ramp along the south Pond Lane sidewalk, which appears designed for rolling goods carts. It lacks accessible width, length, landing areas and slopes.



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

### **Sidewalks**

There is no accessible route provided from public streets/sidewalks to entry points of facility.

#### **North Beach**

The sidewalk approaching facility from under the 1-lane bridge at Pond Lane is disconnected from the southeast side of bridge. The curb ramp to this sidewalk does not include a level transition and turning space from street to sidewalk, and the sidewalk has excessive cross slopes leading to facility walkways.

There is no accessible sidewalk connection to facility paths, spaces, elements and amenities to points south of the parking lot due to the non-level, non-smooth ground surface border of lengthwise cobblestones that mark the beginning of the Shoreline Path at North Beach.

#### **South Beach**

There is no accessible sidewalk connection to facility paths, spaces, elements and amenities to points north of the Linwood St. and Scannell Field sidewalk and rotary parking due to the ground surface border of lengthwise cobblestones, plus the chain-link/ bollards barrier that marks the beginning of the Shoreline Path at South Beach.

The sidewalks around the rotary; and along Linwood Street have a mixture of recently reconstructed panels alongside older asphalt sidewalks. This sidewalk is inaccessible throughout due to excessive slopes, gaps, depressions and other conditions resulting from the combination of dissimilar ground surface materials.

The above issues negatively impact access to facility by users of the three public transit routes (77, 79, 350) served by nearby transit stops along Massachusetts Avenue.



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

## ***Parking***

### **North Beach**

The Parking Lot at North Beach has 30 spaces with 2 spaces designated as accessible parking. These 2 spaces share an access aisle and are located on the nearest end of the parking lot to the facility.

The designated accessible spaces and the access aisle in the middle are not connected to an accessible route.

Both spaces and the access aisle have excessive slopes and one space includes a gutter obstruction on the passenger side. The access aisle leads to an inaccessible curb cut and an inaccessible, limited sidewalk path with excessive slopes. (Photo 7)

The limited parking lot sidewalk only leads towards the Boat Ramp walkway and does not provide clear space or level and slip-free approach to the signage or any amenities at the Overlook Park area of Spy Pond Park. (Photo 9)

Parking lot sidewalks, curb cut, and walkways need to be maintained clear of snow and water accumulation while facility is open to public.

### **South Beach**

There is room for approximately 8 cars to park for a 2-hour parking limit at the Linwood Circle rotary opposite Scannell Field. There are no accessible parking spaces. An accessible route is not provided from parking to facility entry points.



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

## ***Point of Entry***

### North Beach

Point of entry to facility from points east and north are hindered by lengthwise cobblestone border embedded at head of facility walkway (Photo 5)

Point of entry through the parking facility and nearby municipal and associate programs at Spy Pond Fields & Tennis Courts and Boys and Girls Club is inaccessible because Pond Terrace lacks sidewalks and Pond Lane sidewalks are uneven, narrow, and have many gaps, level changes and discontinuities. (Photo 10)

Point of entry from parking lot to adjacent Overlook park is inaccessible because there is no accessible route leading into and through this space.

Point of entry and link to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway from Spy Pond Shoreline trail is a path to a staircase built of repurposed railroad ties. There is no accessible route or ramped walkway matching this staircase linkage.<sup>34</sup> (Photo 11)

### South Beach

Point of entry to the South Beach Shoreline path is not accessible because the lengthwise cobblestone border at the head of the trail, similar to the head of the path from the North Beach, does not provide a level, smooth and slip-free transition between the Linwood Circle sidewalks and the graded shoreline path. This continuous edging also acts as a barrier to access the tables, benches, some trash receptacles and other viewing amenities along the length of the shoreline path. (Photo 12)

<sup>34</sup> The facility path leading to the stairs was part of the 2005/2006 regrading of the park and construction of the unifying shoreline trail.



Photo 13

### **Gates**

The Playground gate entrance, at North Beach, has an uneven, unstable ground surface, which accumulates water. There is inadequate clearance width at the opening because the ground surface includes uneven areas that hinder a 90-degree swing of the gate. Gate requires a smooth surface or kickplate on push side (2010 requirement). (Photo 13)

The chain-link gate between two bollards at the South Beach Linwood Circle entrance to the Shoreline path is not in itself an accessibility issue; however, the clear space on either side of bollards is not accessible because there are excessive slopes and counter-slopes; and, the ground surface is not level, smooth and slip-free. (Photo 14)



Photo 14

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### **Overlook Viewing Area**

Alterations within primary function area, spaces and/or elements were completed in 1994 and in 2006 without provision of an accessible route to altered areas.

The Overlook area, dedicated in 1994, contains no accessible route to the public amenities in this area, including benches, signage, overlook bays, and memorial markers. (Photo 15)



Photo 15



Photo 16

### ***Shoreline Path Viewing Areas***

Viewing areas include well-graded paths. These need to be wide enough to provide turning-around space (minimum 5 feet unobstructed width). Due to lack of adequate width, these viewing amenities are not currently accessible, safe and usable. (Photo 16)

Picnic areas do not include accessible routes because the cobblestone edging is not smooth, level and slip-free. In addition, there needs to be a minimum four feet path to allow individuals using wheeled mobility devices to enter and circulate around the picnic table and bench amenities. (Photo 17)



Photo 17

### ***Walkways***

At least 1 accessible route to all site features is not provided. Ground surface obstructions include cobblestone borders that enclose the features with no clear space provided to accommodate inclusion of wheelchair accessibility.

The shoreline path is well graded, clearly designated and includes ample passing space. Water accumulation, snow removal and ground surface displacement issues require regular and seasonal maintenance. (Photo 18)



Photo 18



Photo 18

### **Boat Pier**

The Boat Ramp was completed in 2006 and provides programs that are central to the thriving summer activities at Spy Pond Park.

There is an accessible walkway with smooth surface and minimal slopes leading to the Boat Ramp. However, important safety signage regarding use of this facility is located adjacent to the corrugated surface instead of adjoining an accessible clear ground space. (Photo 18)

The construction of the Boat Ramp was completed without provision of an accessible route or inclusive adaptive sports programming. There is no provision of at least one 60-inch level boarding pier/launch dock for persons using mobility accessories to embark and disembark onto rowboats. There is no provision of a smooth walking surface. (Photo 19)



Photo 19

### **Play Area**

At least one accessible route within the use zone<sup>35</sup> is not provided from perimeter to all accessible play structures or components within the playground due to recessed areas surrounded by borders at least 3 inches high.

Play area loose fill surfacing materials do not maintain cross slopes not exceeding 1:48 (2.08%), and have uneven surfaces, with changes in level greater than 1/2 inch, and with openings greater than 1/2 inch *diameter*. A balancing ground play element extends into an otherwise clear circulation route and is not cane-detectable. (Photo 20)



Photo 20

<sup>35</sup> The use zone is the ground level area beneath and immediately adjacent to a play structure or equipment that is designated for unrestricted circulation around the structure.



Photo 21

### ***Play Area- Elements***

This playground offers multiple stand-alone and composite play structures for toddlers and older children, including various types of ground play elements integrated in the play area.

Composite play structures have transfer steps that lead to some slides and interactive panels. Transfer systems do not connect to at least 50% of the elevated components. There are no accessible elevated routes<sup>36</sup> to elevated play components at this large play area within this unique facility.

Accessibility maintenance issues within the play area include the need to trim tree branches that protrude into the circulation routes at a height below 80 inches, ground surface firmness, slope and leveling refreshment and water pooling mitigation.



Photo 22

### ***Sitting Wall***

The Sitting wall was thoughtfully designed to include provision of a 34-inch wide ramped route along with the stones delineating this path to the shoreline.

However, due to the lack of firm, level and slip-free ground surface and excessive run slopes, this sitting wall/ route to shore's edge is not currently an accessible element. There also needs to be at least one level turning space at shore's edge that is at least 60 inches in diameter and adjoining the accessible route.



Photo 23

<sup>36</sup> An accessible elevated accessible route includes a maximum running slope no more than 8.3%, handrails running the full length of the ramp run, turning space for wheelchairs to make a 180 degree turn, and level landings at top and bottom of ramps.



Photo 24



Photo 25



Photo 26

### **Access to Elements**

Seating areas, picnic tables, circle benches around a tree, trash receptacles and drinking fountains are provided through this linear facility, from north beach to south beach. These elements and amenities do not adjoin accessible routes and unobstructed firm, level ground spaces for integrated wheelchair seating are not yet included in seating and table arrangements. (Photo 24)

### **Tables**

There are at least 7 picnic tables along the shoreline route from north to south. Tables are not connected to an accessible route. The ground surface under and around tables is uneven and slippery or, the level surface is not wide enough to accommodate an adjacent clear space of at least 30 inches by 48 inches along an accessible route. (Photo 25)

At least one or 5% accessible tables at both North and South beach areas should be provided.

### **Benches**

There are approximately 18 free-standing benches and 2 tree-circle benches within facility. One bench is in the play area; the others are located along the Shoreline path and Overlook park.

The benches are not connected by accessible route. The ground surface under and around benches is uneven and slippery. An adjacent clear space of at least 30 inches by 48 inches is not provided. At least one or 5% accessible benches at both North and South beach areas should be provided adjoining an accessible route. (Photo 26)



Photo 27

### **Signage**

South Beach Sign installation is off the Bikeway path behind an erosion barrier. Sign is not accessible because ground surface to approach, view and read sign is not firm and slip-free. (Photo 27)

North Beach Sign installation at Overlook park area is near Parking lot sidewalk. There is another sign installed in front of Playground. These signs are not located along an accessible route. There is not at least a 36-inch minimum firm and slip-free connection from walkways to approach sign; and, there is no clear ground surface of at least 30 inches by 48 inches minimum to read sign.



Photo 28

There needs to be directional signage at the path leading to the inaccessible stairway that currently serves as one of the pedestrian links between the Spy Pond Park and the shared-use Minuteman Bikeway trail. This signage should provide clear directions so that pedestrians are aware of an accessible pedestrian link between the Spy Pond Park and the shared-use Minuteman Bikeway near Linwood Circle. (See Photo 11)

### **Bulletin Board**

A community bulletin board at South Beach Bikeway connection does not provide an accessible forward approach to view and post community information signs. (Photo 29)



Photo 29



Photo 30

## Access to Amenities

### *Drinking Fountains*

2 drinking fountains are provided at Spy Pond Park facility. One is at North Beach outside the playground gates; the other is near the South Beach rotary sidewalks, near bench and viewing amenities.

North Beach fountain has accessible dimensions, but is anchored onto a cement platform that provides less than 23 inches width clear, level and slip-free space for approach and use.

South Beach drinking fountain has accessible dimensions but it was anchored incorrectly when installed; so, controls are unreachable and spout faces wrong direction.

When re-anchoring fountains to cement platforms that provide accessible route and clear ground space: ensure that fountains are located along accessible route, and positioned for a forward approach and centered on unit.



Photo 31

### *Trash Receptacles*

There are at least 3 trash receptacles at North Beach and at least 2 near South Beach Shoreline Path. Receptacles are not along accessible route because there is not a minimum 30-inch by 48-inch firm, level and slip-free space for parallel or forward approach and use from walkway.



Photo 32

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks, Sidewalks, Curb Ramps:**

North Beach Install an accessible route along at least one sidewalk from Mass Ave. @ Palmer public transit stop to point of entry at Boat Ramp, Spy Pond Park north beach.

South Beach Install an accessible route along at least one sidewalk from nearby Mass Ave. @ Foster St. public transit stop to head of shoreline path at Linwood Circle, Spy Pond Park south beach. Ensure that all curb ramps are directly oriented to the crosswalks they serve.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Location; Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes, Entrances; Accessible Routes for Site Arrival Points and Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

##### **Parking**

North Beach Resurface shared access aisle to provide compliant cross-slopes. Install compliant curb ramp and accessible route connection to Overlook park, and approach and entry to Boat Ramp, Playground, and head of Shoreline path.

**Maintenance:** Snow Removal Policy should prioritize maintenance of clear paths between parking lot entry/exit points to municipal facility entry/exit points.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design:*

*Accessible Routes for Access Routes and Curb Ramps and General Site and Building Elements: Parking Spaces for Access Aisles, and Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes and Site Arrival Points*

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Boat Ramp**

If boat ramp is altered, install a smooth-surface connection between parking lot and Boat Ramp that extends from land to water and includes smooth clear pontoon or landing stage to accommodate adaptive rowing and accessible launch/ dismount capabilities. Install handrails on at least one long waterside edge, parallel with the ground surface, mounted between 34 inches and 38 inches above the ramp surface. Ensure that they will not rotate within their fittings, and that they have ends that are rounded or return smoothly to floor, wall, or post. Provide edge protection at least 2 inches high.

Project completion objectives:

- The least possible run slope,
- A minimum of 36 inches width
- Include at least one 60-inch diameter turning space at landing stage
- Ensure that the ramp and its level landing at the top and bottom are designed and maintained so that water does not accumulate on walking surfaces.
- Renovation may include the purchase of a portable Transition Plate for access between launch dock and boat.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Recreational Boating Facilities and Accessible Routes and Operable Parts and Site Arrival Points Within Site; and, Recreation Facilities for Recreational Boating Facilities: Accessible Routes and Boarding Pier*

## *Clearances.*

*For additional information, please also see U.S. Access Board Guidelines and Standards for - Accessible Boarding Piers<sup>37</sup> and Accessible Routes to Fishing Piers.<sup>38</sup>*

## **Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense**

### **Approach & Entrance**

#### ***Point of Entry***

North Beach Install an accessible walkway from parking lot to Overlook park area to provide:

- Level, firm forward approach, 48 inches minimum width, to view sign and dedication marker;
- A level, firm ground approach route and space to use at least one of the overlook bays; and,
- A level, firm ground approach route and space to use at least one bench.

North Beach At head of Shoreline path at bollards gate, design and install solution to uneven surface caused by embedded cobblestones at point of entry.

South Beach At head of Shoreline path at bollards gate, design and install solution to uneven surface caused by embedded cobblestones at point of entry.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Location; and Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes and Site Arrival Points and*

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/guides/boating-facilities/boarding-piers-at-boat-launch-ramps>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.access-board.gov/attachments/article/590/fishing.pdf>

## *Site Arrival Points Within Site.*

### **Gates**

Install smooth, firm, level walking surface at play area gate entrance.  
Install a smooth surface or kickplate hardware on gate.

Maintenance: Ensure that gates can swing open freely to 90 degrees and that ground surface at entrance is firm, level and slip-free.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surface; and Accessible Routes for Doors and Gates at Maneuvering Clearance, Floor and Ground Surface and Threshold; and Accessible Routes for Door and Gate Surfaces.*

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### ***Sitting Wall***

Provide a firm accessible route of at least 32 inches width that is firm, with least possible slopes, as level as possible, and slip-free. There should be at least one 60 inch, minimum, diameter clear space at shoreline to provide wheelchair users room for 180-degree turn. Consider edge protection.

*For additional information, please refer ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Location; and Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes and Site Arrival Points and Site Arrival Points Within Site.*

### **Play Areas**

If play area is altered, install firm ground level area beneath and adjacent to all play structures

and equipment to provide unrestricted circulation around structures to all entry/exit points at ground level play elements.

Provide opening at each recessed area that is at least 36 inches width and that connects with at least one play area walkway that connects to all accessible elements within play area and to gate.

*Maintenance:* If only mulch and EWF ground surface materials are used around play structures, a frequent maintenance policy needs to be in place to ensure accessibility of ground surface materials in play area use zones through all seasons.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Recreation Facilities for Play Areas at Accessible Routes and Ground Surfaces and Use Zones.*

## **Access to Elements**

### **Signage**

Install directional signage at head of path to staircase connection to Bikeway connection, informing users that an accessible connection to the Bikeway is at the South Beach Linwood Street crosswalk.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Directional and Informational Signs.*

### **Tables**

Reconstruct anchoring concrete panels at all distinctive locations (north and south, sunny and shady, shoreline and grassy) to provide at

least 1 table/sitting area that includes at least 1 30 in. by 48 in. clear space at table. Project completion objective:

- Accessible table areas should connect to at least one accessible route adjoining other areas and amenities within facility.

### **Benches**

Reconstruct anchoring concrete panels at all distinctive locations (north and south, sunny and shady, shoreline and grassy) to provide at least 1 bench area that includes at least 1 30 in. by 48 in. clear space for integrated shoulder-to-shoulder wheelchair seating. Project completion objective:

- Accessible table areas should connect to at least one accessible route adjoining other areas and amenities within facility.

### **Protruding Objects**

Playground: Trim all tree branches that extend lower than 80 inches into play use zone, circulation around play structures, and approach and use of benches.

### **Play Elements, Composite Structures**

*Long-term planning:* When new play elements are considered for this Playground, choose a composite play structure that offers an accessible route to at least 51% of elevated play components in addition to multiple types of accessible ground play elements. This may involve choosing a play structure that includes a ramp to an elevated accessible route.

*Note:* This 2010 ADA Standards requirement is triggered by future alterations and construction to play areas used by children ages two and over.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

### **Signage**

Install directional signage at Linwood Circle entry point to Shoreline path informing users of accessible crosswalk connection to Minuteman Commuter Bikeway shared-use trail at the crosswalk 100 feet to the east.

Install accessible routes to provide forward approach and level, firm viewing ground space at all installed signs.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Signs and Directional and Informational Signs.*

width and 48 in. length for forward or parallel approach to trash openings.

Where trash receptacles are enclosed within cobblestone borders, reposition borders to ensure that borders do not inhibit free approach and use from accessible route to openings, with at least a 36 in. width slip-free walk to trash barrel.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Site Arrival Points Within a Site.*

## **Access to Amenities**

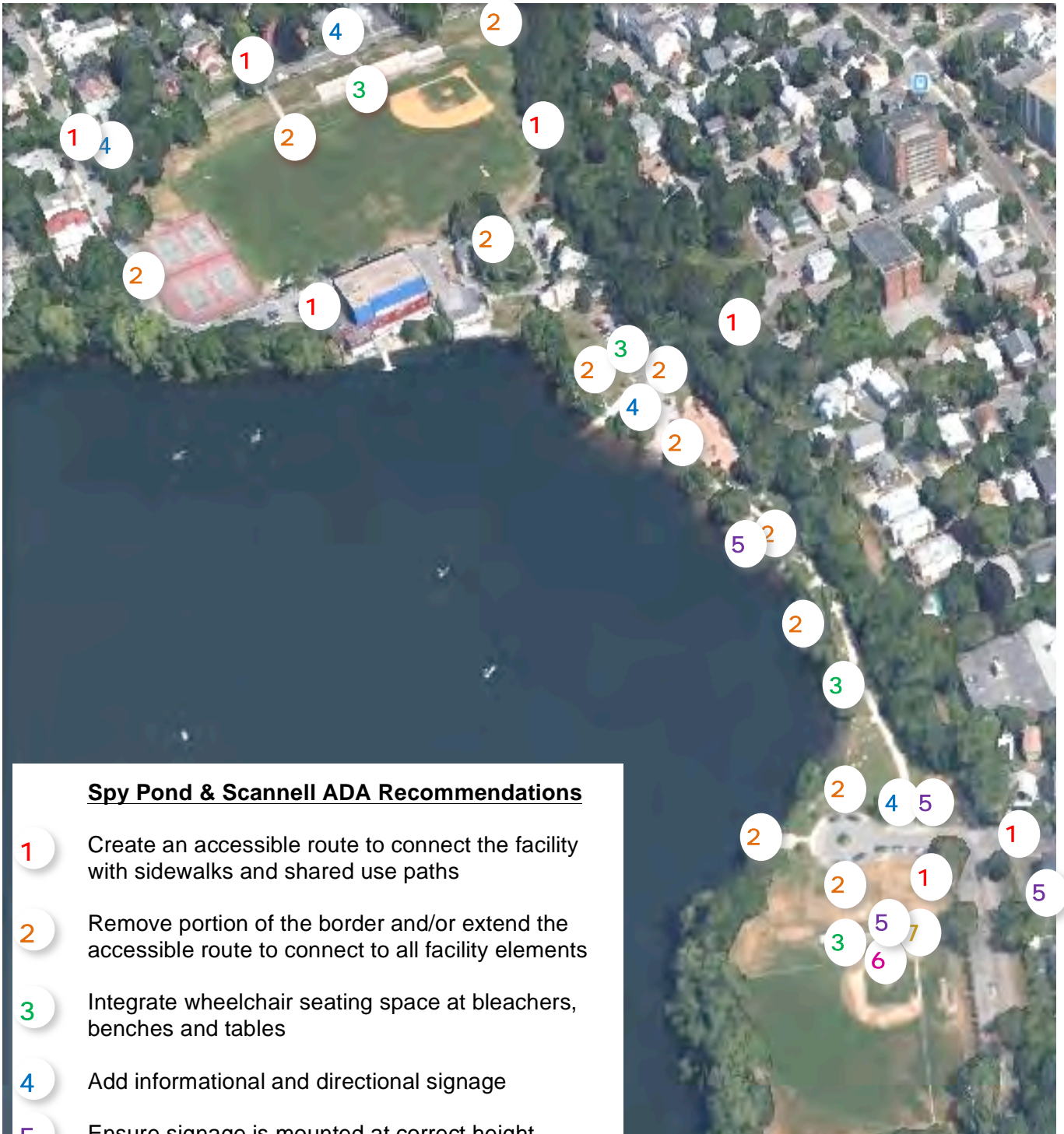
### **Drinking Fountains**

Reconstruct anchoring concrete panels to provide a clear approach and use space of at least 30 in. width and 48 in. length at both north and south fountains. 48 in. width may overlap with a maximum of 19 in. underneath fountains. This clear approach space should adjoin at least one accessible route or walkway. Fountains should be oriented for forward, not parallel, approach.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Drinking Fountains; and Plumbing Elements and facilities for Drinking Fountains; and, Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Site Arrival Points Within a Site*

### **Trash Receptacles**

Reposition Trash Receptacles to ensure that there is a clear use space of at least 30 in.



### Spy Pond & Scannell ADA Recommendations

- 1 Create an accessible route to connect the facility with sidewalks and shared use paths
- 2 Remove portion of the border and/or extend the accessible route to connect to all facility elements
- 3 Integrate wheelchair seating space at bleachers, benches and tables
- 4 Add informational and directional signage
- 5 Ensure signage is mounted at correct height
- 6 Add kickplate on gates
- 7 Add ramp with handrails
- 8 Ensure that policies include service animals and specific contact information for accommodations



## Summer Street Park

Located at the intersection of Summer and Forest Streets, **Summer Street Park** is one of the facilities of the Sports Complex and is connected to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway.

This facility includes a baseball field with dugouts and a grassy field for field hockey with lights for night play, one basketball court, and a multi-generational activity area with two bocce courts, one playground for ages 5 and under, one fitness course along a mostly accessible path, three gaming tables (including one accessible table), and several benches.

### **Location:**

422 Summer Street, Sports Complex

### **Year Built:**

Unknown

### **Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2010 – Renovation of multi-generational activity area

### **Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Playground (for ages 5 and under)
- Fitness Course
- Basketball Court
- Two Bocce Courts
- Baseball Field
- Grassy Field for Field Hockey

### **Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. (or 10 p.m. with special permit)

- Available for playing field permits
- Off-street parking provided adjacent to the Ed Burns Arena.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### ***Crosswalks, Curb Ramps, and Sidewalks***

Please see Sports Complex, Site Arrival Survey in Part C - Evaluation of Facilities for information regarding Crosswalk, Curb Ramps, and Sidewalks.

#### ***Points of Entry***

This facility has five points of entry: two on Summer Street, one on Forest Street, and two along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. On Summer Street, the sidewalk along the driveway has excessive running slopes (15%) and is obstructed by a parking space. (Photo 2)

On Summer and Forest Street, stairways are in poor condition and are missing compliant railings on both sides. (Photos 3 and 4)

Along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, the asphalt walkway that leads to the multi-generational activity area has excessive running slopes (7%) and the asphalt walkway that leads to the parking adjacent to Ed Burns Arena is poorly maintained. (Photo 5)



*Photo 4*

### ***Parking***

No accessible parking spaces serving this facility were identified in the marked parking spaces adjacent to Summer Street Park. (Photo 6)



*Photo 5*



*Photo 6*



Photo 7

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Interior Walkways***

A stone walkway is provided between the parking lot adjacent to Ed Burns Arena and most features within the multi-generational activity area. In certain areas along the fitness course, tree canopies protrude into the circulation path, hanging less than 80 inches above the ground. This obstructs pedestrian vertical access from being continuous from one end of path to the other.

(Photo 7)



Photo 8

### ***Field Playing Areas***

No accessible route is provided between points of entry at Forest and Ryder Streets and the baseball field and the grassy field used for field hockey.

### ***Team Seating Areas***

No accessible route is provided to either team seating areas adjacent to the baseball field. Although there is enough space for accessible integrated wheelchair seating locations within each dugout, they are not properly identified.

(Photo 8)



Photo 9

### ***Spectator Seating Areas***

The bleachers adjacent to the baseball field has eight tiers and one stair entry points at the bottom (field), providing seating for at least 145 persons. This seating area is inaccessible because there are no ramped entry points to any tiers or sections at either top or bottom and because no accessible route is provided to the bleachers. (Photo 9)

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Along the fitness course, trim trees so that branches over the path are no lower than 80" above the ground.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Building Blocks for Vertical Clearance*

##### **Field Playing Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry at Forest and Ryder Streets and the baseball field and the grassy field used for field hockey (about 1,000 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Application and Scoping Requirements for Site Arrival Points Within a Site; and, Technical Requirements for Accessible Routes.*

##### **Team Seating Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the baseball field. The accessible route to the dugout can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Site Arrival Points Within a Site, Team or Player Seating and Integration; and, Technical requirements for Accessible Routes.*

##### **Spectator Seating Areas**

Install an accessible walkway between the point of entry and the bleachers adjacent to the baseball field. The accessible route to the bleachers can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.

Replace existing spectator seating with an ADA-compliant amenity. There should be at least four wheelchair spaces dispersed in this area; each with a companion seat adjacent on either side; and along an accessible route connected to other facility spaces and elements.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping Requirements for Assembly Areas, Team or Player Seating and Integration; and, Accessible Routes section.*



### Summer Street Park ADA Recommendations

- 1 Interior Walkways:** Along the fitness course, trim trees so that branches over the path are no lower than 80" above the ground.
- 2 Field Playing Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the point of entry and the baseball field and the grassy field used for field hockey.
- 3 Team Seating Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the points of entry and at least one team seating area of the baseball field. The accessible route to the dugout can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field.
- 4 Spectator Sitting Areas:** Install an accessible walkway between the point of entry and the bleachers adjacent to the baseball field. The accessible route to the bleachers can adjoin the new accessible walkway to the field. Replace existing spectator seating with an ADA-compliant amenity. There should be at least four wheelchair spaces dispersed in this area; each with a companion seat adjacent on either side; and along an accessible route connected to other facility spaces and elements.



**Location:**

99 Margaret Street

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Off-Leash Dog Park
- Soccer Field
- Two Lacrosse Fields

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits
- Off-street parking provided adjacent to Minuteman Commuter Bikeway.

## Thorndike Park

**Thorndike Park** is connected via pedestrian pathways to Magnolia Park and is linked to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. This facility includes one soccer field, two lacrosse fields, and a lovely off-leash dog park on the South edge of the site.

Parking, which can only be accessed from Margaret Street, is provided parallel to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. Accessible parking spaces are provided but they are poorly located away from most activity areas.

The inaccessible private road at the edge of the site obstructs access to Thorndike Park from Thorndike Street. The nearby Magnolia Field offers the best access to Thorndike Park for pedestrians coming from Massachusetts Avenue. Therefore, improving accessibility at Magnolia Field will greatly impact Thorndike Park.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach and Entrance

#### *Points of Entry*

Abutting over 800 feet of the parking lot and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, this facility has only three at-grade points of entry: one at the intersection of the parking lot and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, and two at the dog park on the South edge of the site.

A stone path is provided between the parking lot and points of entry at the intersection of the parking lot and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. However, this path is in poor condition and is uneven, unstable, and steep at certain sections. (Photo 1)

At the intersection of the parking lot and the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, the asphalt walkway that leads to the grassy field has excessive running slopes (9.5% at the intersection with the bike path). (Photo 2)

Between the point of entry to the grassy field and the points of entry to the dog park, access is provided mostly through the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. At the edge of the Bikeway, concrete walkways that lead to the gates of the dog park have deteriorated surface. Additionally, both gates that lead to the enclosed area are not accessible because they lack an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate.



Photo 4

### ***Parking***

A parking lot with 67 parking spaces is located off of Margaret Street on the North edge of the site. Although three parking spaces are designated as accessible, no van-designated space is provided. Further, these parking spaces have access aisles that are integrated with curb ramps; however, they are located over 300 feet from the closest point of entry and 550 feet from closet point of entry at the dog park. (Photo 3)

### **Access to Facility Areas**

#### ***Interior Walkways***

Inside the dog park, a paved walkway is provided between both points of entry to the enclosed area. However, due to the lack of curb along the walkway as well as intense activity of animals, sediments from the adjacent gravel areas can make the ground surface slippery. (Photo 4)



Photo 5

#### ***Field Playing Areas***

Although an asphalt walkway is provided between the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway and the edge of the grassy field, it does not extend to the boundary of the soccer and lacrosse fields. (Photos 5 and 6)



Photo 6

#### ***Spectator Seating Areas***

Although no official spectator seating is provided in this facility, the wood railing at the edge of the grassy field is used as seating during sports events. No accessible route is provided at this *ad hoc* seating area.



Photo 7

## Access to Elements

### ***Benches***

Inside the dog park, a paved walkway is provided between both points of entry to the enclosed area. Although this walkway loops around the tree and is connected to a few benches, it does not connect to the benches in the shady area under the tree. (Photo 7)

### ***Amenities for Dogs and Dog Owners***

Inside the dog park, amenities including dog play structures, water spouts, and trash bag dispensers are provided along the walkway. Neither feature is accessible because they do not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 8)



Photo 8

### ***Bulletin Board***

A bulletin board is provided near one of the points of entry of the dog park; however, it is not located within an accessible route. (Photo 9)



Photo 9

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Points of Entry**

Provide an accessible walkway between Margaret Street, the accessible parking spaces, and the points of entry to this facility, including entry to field playing areas, team seating and meeting areas, both gated entry areas at dog park, access to spectator seating (including informal fence seating). At least one accessible walkway needs to provide an accessible route to all areas of public participation and also provide a continuous connection to approach and use all accessible public amenities, such as portable toilets, dog water fountains, trash cans, etc.,

Dog Park: Repave the concrete walkways that lead to and through the dog park gated areas so that they are level, smooth, with compliant slopes and free of obstructions. At least 60 inches clear must be provided between inner gated areas; this should not overlap with bench seating. This 60-inch circle or square footprint is necessary to provide adequate turning space for people using wheeled mobility devices to be able to go in either direction while between gates. Additionally, when alterations are made, install an ADA-compliant latch and kickplate gates.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes in addition to Scoping Requirements, Site Arrival Points.*

##### **Parking**

Relocate accessible parking spaces closer to the points of entry to this facility. Ensure that at least one van-designated space is provided.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: General Site and Building Elements for Parking.*

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Inside the dog park, ensure that the existing walkway has a continuously smooth and level path that approaches to use of all public amenities provided, including shoulder to shoulder seating alongside benches in both shady and sunny location; access to smaller and larger dog run areas, access to at least one dog trash bag and trash receptacle, and to at least one dog water faucet,

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Field Playing Areas**

Extend the asphalt walkway adjacent to the Bikeway along the grassy and wood railing (about 500 feet) and ensure that run and cross slopes are within compliant limits.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Spectator Seating Areas**

In addition to the accessible route mentioned above, consider installing some accessible

bench seating along with integrated clear wheelchair spaces for sports events.

included within the Department's published program information.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

## **Access to Elements**

### ***Benches***

Extend the accessible walkway to at least one of the benches under the tree (about 30 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 4 benches).

### ***Bulletin Board***

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider extending the asphalt walkway to the bulletin board (about 2 feet).

### ***Signage***

Mount Town rules and information signage so that the top line is no more than 70 inches and the bottom line no less than 40 inches above ground surface. Ensure that an accessible route for forward approach and viewing is available at all signage locations.

Dog Park Rules and Policies: Ensure that all printed and online materials regarding Dog Park rules and policies are readily provided in accessible formats upon request. Accessible formats include digital and printed Braille, and Large Print. Contact information to request accessible communication formats should be



### **W.A. Peirce Fields**

W. A. Pierce Fields is a large and well-appointed outdoor athletics facility adjacent to the Arlington H.S. Facility.

A public parking facility leads to an accessible walkway that provides access to the six-lane track and football field with scoreboard. There is a ball field on the west of the track and two ball fields on the right. There is a basketball court with two courts within the fence.

The spectator grandstands for the Track and Turf events and programs provide integrated and accessible seating on both sides of that field.

**Location:**

Arlington H.S.

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

Unknown

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- 6-Lane Track
- Football field with Scoreboard
- 3 ball fields
- 2 full basketball courts
- Open field
- Spectator grandstands

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits
- Seasonal and summer athletics and team training
- Spectator games



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalks, Curb Ramps and Sidewalks***

Pedestrian access to facility programs and events is hindered by the lack of continuous accessible routes from nearby public transit and streets and sidewalks to the accessible walkway southeast of Track and Turf, courts and ball field practices, programs and events. At Millbrook Drive and Mill St. intersection, curb ramps lack a level top landing. From Mill St. at nearby housing complex driveway to the facility walkway, there is no sidewalk provided.

#### ***Parking***

Parking facilities along Schouler Court lack signage indicating whether these are public or restricted facilities.

Public parking facility at Millbrook Drive has approximately 50 spaces, with two designated as accessible. The shared access aisle lacks the necessary width for van-accessible parking. (Photos 1, 2, 3)



Photo 4

## **Access to Facility Areas**

### ***Track and Turf***

The Track and Turf Fields provides accessible route to sports areas and use of track. (Photo 4) Entrance to ramp from public point of entry to grandstands is over 100 feet. Walkway adjacent to track ends five feet after fence onto a hilly grassy slope, approximately 290 feet from spectator ramp. There needs to be a clear emergency egress route map and plan for this facility in case of any emergency, so that individuals using wheeled mobility devices have adequate access to clear emergency egress routes leading to safe places of refuge. (Photo 5)



Photo 5

### ***Fields, West (near track)***

Although ball field nearest to high school parking area includes bleachers and team seating on concrete platforms, these platforms do not extend to join an accessible route, and they do not provide a clear location for integrated seating at team seating and at bleacher areas.

There is no accessible route to the boundary of the sports playing areas. (Photo 6)



Photo 6

### ***Fields, South and East***

Although ball field to the east of track includes bleachers and team seating on concrete platforms, these platforms do not extend to join an accessible route, and they do not provide a clear location for integrated seating at team seating and at bleacher areas.

Smaller practice field south of east field does not have team seating area or bleacher area. There is no accessible route to the boundary of the sports playing areas for either of these fields. (Photo 7)



*Photo 7*

### ***Courts***

There is a fenced court area providing two full basketball courts.

This area is not currently accessible because the gated entry point adjoining the accessible walkway only provides a narrow opening, less than 36 inches. (Photo 8)

### **Access to Elements**

#### ***Signage***

Signage provided at track is cluttered with trash receptacles. This signage does not provide any information regarding availability of assistive listening devices.

Signage along fence from parking area and also at spectator area is hung over 8 feet above ground surface and is not at an accessible height for viewing.



*Photo 8*

### **Access to Amenities**

#### ***Drinking Fountain***

Drinking fountain is along an accessible walkway and allows for accessible forward approach. Cross slopes near fountain are slightly excessive. (Photo 9)



*Photo 9*

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### ***Pedestrian Crosswalks, Curb Ramps & Sidewalks***

Install sidewalk with curb ramps as necessary linking public parking facility to sidewalk at nearby housing driveway.

##### ***Parking***

Restripe parking facility to provide access aisle with 96 inches width.

Provide signage at head of public parking facility to inform users that this is a designated public parking facility.

At front end of Schouler Court, provide informational and directional signage to inform motorists where public parking is provided.

#### Access to Facility Areas

##### ***Fields***

1. West ball field: Grade and Install an accessible route from end of Track walkway to bleacher, team seating and perimeter of sports playing area. Expand concrete panel to provide integrated seating at both team seating areas and at both bleacher areas. (about 100 feet) Alternatively, install an accessible route around perimeter of both open field and ball field playing areas. This walkway should adjoin both bleacher areas, team seating areas, and be at least 36 inches width. (500- 700 feet)

2. East Bellfield: Grade and install an accessible route from track walkway or walkway from public parking area to bleacher, team seating and perimeter of sports playing area. Expand concrete panel to provide integrated seating at both team seating areas and at both bleacher areas. (about 200 feet)

##### ***3. South ball field***

Install an accessible walkway from well-graded walkway between parking lot and fields to perimeter of practice field. (about 50 feet)

##### ***Team Seating***

Provide accessible route connection to and circulation within all team seating locations.

##### ***Courts***

Install or extend gate along at least one accessible route providing at least 36-inch entrance when open 90 degrees

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Scoping Requirements for Parking Spaces and Accessible Routes for Site Arrival Points and Scoping Requirements for Accessible Routes Within a Site*

#### Access to Elements

##### ***Bleachers***

Provide accessible route connection to all bleacher locations.

Provide at least one integrated wheelchair seating location within all bleacher areas with a minimum 36 inches width and 48 inches length and adjoining general public accessible route.

##### ***Effective Communications, Signage***

Provide signage indicating availability of assistive listening devices or other effective means of

accessing audible information during Track and Turf programs and events.

For additional information, please refer to ADA Title II Requirements for Effective Communications, 28 CFR 35.160 – 35.164; and, ADA 2010 Standards: Scoping Requirements for Signs.

### ***Signage***

Mount signage so that the top line is no more than 70 inches and the bottom line no less than 40 inches above ground surface. Ensure that an accessible route for forward approach and viewing is available at all signage locations. Provide clear signage directing users to all accessible ramp locations. At all accessible entrances, provide signage with the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA).



## Waldo Park

Waldo Park is a lovely neighborhood park that is well maintained and with a large number of amenities for its size.

The playground includes many types of accessible play elements and the swingsets include accessible bucket seat swings in addition to swings for older children.

The highest priority capital project need at Waldo Park is to provide a continuous accessible route that links facility's exterior entry/exit points and the designated on-street parking space with all interior primary function areas and elements.

### Location:

1 Waldo Road

### Year Built:

Unknown

### Known Renovations since 1991:

- 1977 and again between 2005 and 2008 – extensive renovations.
- Renovations completed within the past ten years include:
  - new entrances from Teel Street and Waldo Road,
  - new play equipment,
  - refurbished basketball court,
  - drainage improvements,
  - paved walks,
  - seating,
  - picnic tables and
  - landscaping.<sup>39</sup>

### Primary Function Areas Surveyed:

- Gated playground
- Swingset area
- Basketball court
- Open field
- Circulation route
- Table area

### Public Programs:

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Available for playing field permits
- Public art sculpture installation
- Seasonal: sledding, annual community picnic.

<sup>39</sup> Approximately \$130,000 of CDBG funds were allocated for these renovations in PY03 and PY04. See Arlington Annual Report 2004: [http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public\\_documents/arlingtonma\\_recreation/annualreports/2004recreation.pdf](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public_documents/arlingtonma_recreation/annualreports/2004recreation.pdf).



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Pedestrian Crosswalk Area***

There are no marked crosswalks around the perimeter of facility. The nearest public transit stop (Massachusetts Ave. @ Thorndike St.) has old, noncompliant infrastructure, requiring reconstruction. This public transit stop is over 300 feet away.

#### ***Curb Ramps***

Curb ramp opposite Waldo St. entrance is not constructed properly, has steep slopes and lacks flared sides. The curb cut at the Teel St. entrance does not provide an accessible transition between sidewalk and street because there are excessive level changes between street and sidewalk. (Photo 1)

Curb ramps at Intersections near the Teel St. entrances do not connect with accessible sidewalks, have steep slopes and are missing level landings. New curb ramps at the Waldo Road/ Amsden intersection are incorrectly constructed as apex instead of perpendicular and lead users into road instead of along sidewalk route. (Photo 2)

#### ***Sidewalks***

New sidewalk reconstruction on Teel Street from the signed accessible parallel parking space to the facility entrances has uneven surfaces, does not provide an accessible route from parking space to entrance, and does not extend to facility basketball court entrance. (Photo 3)

#### ***Off-street Parking Space***

1 parallel accessible parking space is thoughtfully provided. Information should be posted nearby to inform residents of the town's parking enforcement procedures.



Photo 4

### ***Point of Entry***

There are 3 points of entry to facility. The new constructed entry panels and walkway at Waldo St. have excessive cross slopes and there are unbeveled steep level changes between the curved design element and interior walkway. (Photo 4)

The two entrances with varying bollards on Teel Street are not along an accessible sidewalk route and there are excessive cross slopes and unbeveled steep level changes between the curved design element and interior walkway.

The Basketball court on Teel St. is not along an accessible route because the Teel St. sidewalk ends prior to this facility space. (Photo 5)

### ***Gates***

There are two gated entry points to the playground and sitting area (Photo 6) and, there is a gate to the Teel Street Basketball court entry point.

Gates are missing smooth surface or kickplate hardware. Teel St. gate to the basketball courts is not along an accessible route and ground surface is not firm, level and smooth.



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

## Access to Facility Areas

### ***Circulation***

At least 1 accessible route is not provided to connect all accessible facilities, spaces and elements within the facility.

### ***Walkways***

Walkways have narrow widths in places and passing spaces of 48' minimum width are not provided at intervals within path of travel. Walking surface is not consistently firm, stable or slip-resistant. Changes in level, excessive cross and run slope, and utility covers impede circulation where the path is already narrowed, or where clear ground space approach to an element should be provided. (Photo 7)

Walkways do not provide a route to all features within perimeter of site because many spaces, elements and amenities are enclosed within borders. The small ramps that are provided into the areas where ground surfaces are not smooth, level, firm and slip-resistant are excessively steep and do not provide an accessible means of entry or exit. (Photo 8)

### ***Play areas - Use Zone***

At least one accessible route is not provided within site perimeter to all entry/exit points of play areas, including court, swingsets and playground; and there is no accessible route provided to all entry/exit points of the ground play structures and elements within the play areas. (Photo 9)



Photo 10

### **Play Areas - Elements**

The smaller play zone has two stationary swing sets with 4 swings. The larger playground has free-standing swing rockers, a stationary swing set with 2 bucket swings; and a composite play structure with at least 7 ground play elements and at least 14 elevated play components.

The composite play structure has an excellent variety of accessible ground play elements plus a transfer system that provides access to various types of elevated play elements, including interactive panels, climbing, crawling and swinging play elements. (Photo 10)



Photo 11

Both play zones need an accessible route that connects entry and exit points within play components at ground level, including transfer station, accessible slide exit points, rockers and swing sets.

This route must also be connected to the facility walkways, tables, benches and other amenities.

The walkway around the perimeter of the playground area narrows to less than 36 inches wide in places. The grate cover in photo obstructs passage to a bench. (Photo 11)

With the provision of an accessible route, ADA compliance at Waldo Park playgrounds can be readily achieved.



Photo 12

### **Art Installation**

A public art tree sculpture sits on the west hill near the Waldo Road entrance. This art installation has the potential to be a special meeting and socializing area within this Park. If possible, a level-graded path with at least 36 inches width along the west perimeter of the park can be installed for all to approach and enjoy this unique feature. This path can connect with the Teel St. entryway. (Photo 12)



Photo 13

## Access to Elements

### Tables

Two 4-top tables with attached seating are provided at a bordered area within the playground.

Tables are not accessible because they are not along an accessible route, and there is not an integrated clear space of at least 30 inches by 48 inches at any seating location and the table lacks accessible dimensions for knee and toe clearance. (Photo 13)

### Benches

Five benches with armrests are provided. Four do not offer integrated shoulder-to-shoulder clear ground space that is firm, level and slip-free for wheelchair seating. One bench within the playground area provides minimal space for wheelchair seating; however, it is inaccessible because it does not adjoin an accessible route; and, the clear space has excessive cross slopes. (Photo 11)

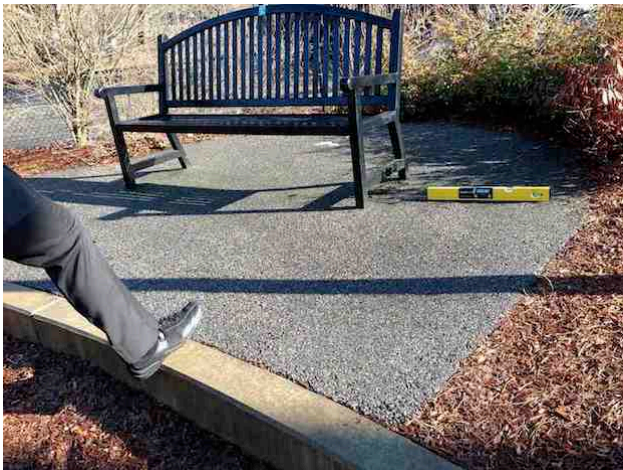


Photo 14

### Signage

Informational Signage is provided at the entrance gate areas and information is posted on a facility bulletin board.

Informational signage is not accessible because ground space to approach and read signs has excessive cross slopes and level changes.

The Bulletin board lacks clear ground space for approach because it is located near a utility cover. (Photo 15)



Photo 15

Where signs prohibiting dogs are placed, policy needs to be modified to welcome service dogs. Information regarding this exception to the policy should be included where dogs on-leash or off-leash are specifically prohibited via posted signs.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### **Benches**

Landscape and re-grade route around at least one sunny and one shady bench along the circulation path to provide clear ground space on at least one side of bench with minimum 30 inches width and 48 inches length.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Building Blocks: Clear Floor or Ground Space; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site*

#### **Signage**

Review requirements and replace signs as needed.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping for Signage, Designations; Communication Elements and Features for Signs*

#### **Accessible Route, Play areas**

Consider adding unitary surface ground materials within the playground areas to provide accessible routes and clear ground spaces to all entry/exit points of ground play elements, including swingsets, spring rockers and play structure.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Scoping requirements for Accessible Routes and Play Areas; Building Blocks for Floor or Ground Surfaces and Changes in Level; Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes; and Recreation Facilities for Play Areas.*

## Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### **Sidewalks**

Reconstruct left sidewalk from Teel St. Court corner to the basketball court gate.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes and Accessible Routes, Site Arrival Points*

#### **Curb Ramp**

When making alterations to Teel St. sidewalk, include at least one accessible curb cut transition from street to sidewalk at front or back perimeter of designated parallel space.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Accessible Routes and Curb Ramps.*

#### **Point of Entry**

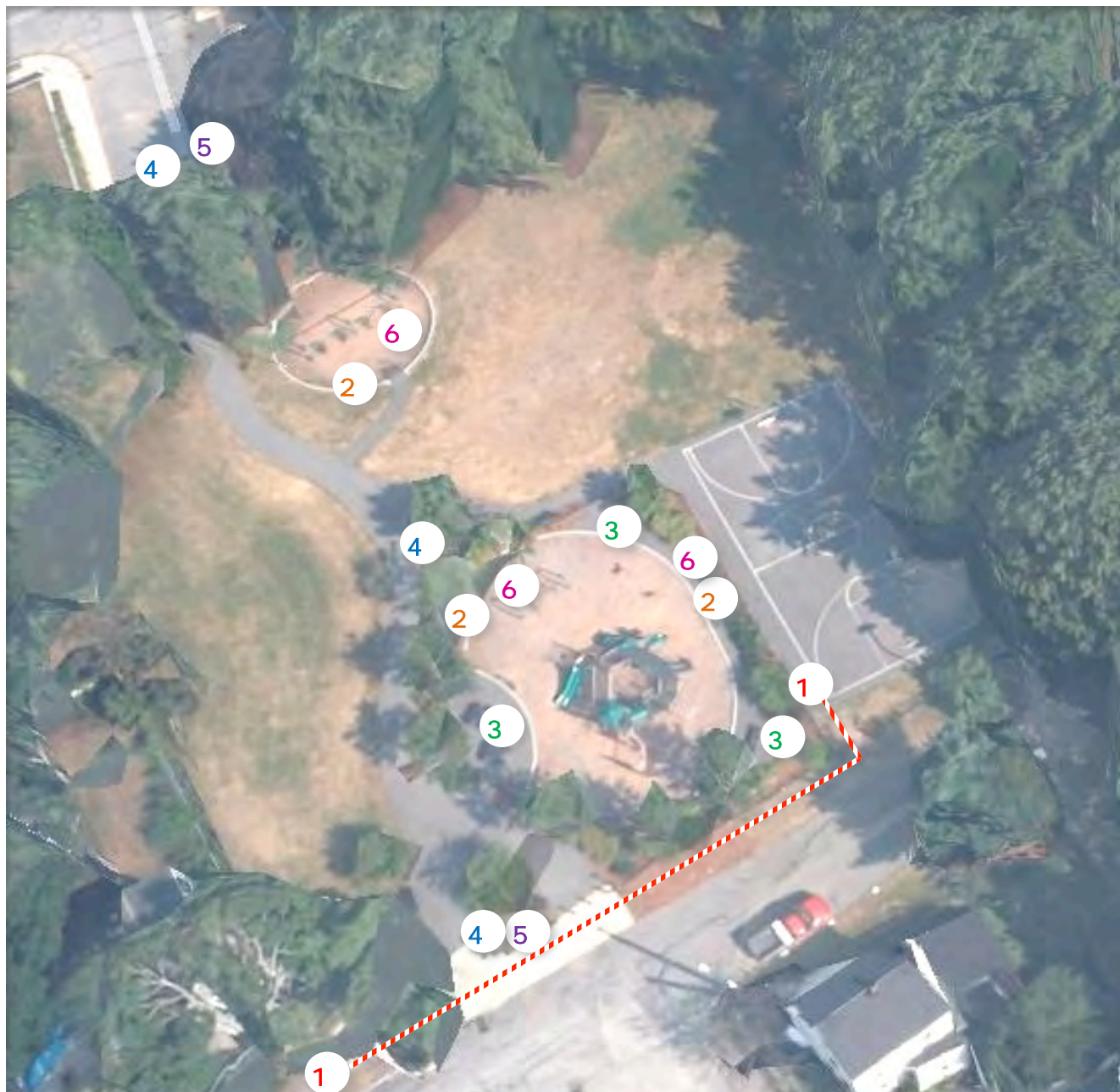
When interior accessible route is reconstructed, regrade entrance design area as well, ensuring that compliant cross slopes are provided in all directions.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Route*

#### **Playground**

Regrade and expand interior circulation paths to provide an accessible route that extends to the swingsets, all ground play elements within playground boundaries, seating areas, signage, and the basketball court.

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes; and Scoping Requirements: Accessible Routes for Within a Site.*



### Waldo Park ADA Recommendations

- 1 Create an accessible route to connect the facility with sidewalks and shared use paths
- 2 Remove portion of the border and/or extend the accessible route for wheelchair users to enter/exit.
- 3 Integrate wheelchair seating space at benches and tables.
- 4 Ensure signage is mounted at correct height.
- 5 Modify information/policies to include service dogs. Provide a contact for accommodations.
- 6 Include accessible ground surface materials.



## Wellington Park

**Wellington Park** is a small neighborhood park near Mill Brook. Also, due to its proximity to the fields of the Arlington High School, this facility is heavily used by that school's students during the academic year. It includes two enclosed, gated areas: one with three tennis courts, and the other with two courts.

The tennis courts are connected to an accessible asphalt walkway on the south edge but the gravel walkway on the opposite side is not considered accessible because of its surface issues. Also on the north side of the tennis courts, a portable toilet room cannot be reached via an accessible route.

A climbing wall is provided at the rear of the park; however, it cannot be reached through an accessible route. Signage provided near gates is excessive and confusing. Very limited on-street parking is available on Grove Street.

**Location:**

46 Grove Street

**Year Built:**

Unknown

**Known Renovations since 1991:**

- 2010 – Major renovation

**Primary Function Areas Surveyed:**

- Tennis Courts
- Climbing Wall

**Public Programs:**

Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- School Activities
- Available for playing court permits



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

## Issues

### Approach & Entrance

#### ***Crosswalks and Curb Ramps***

No crosswalk is provided across Grove Street at the intersection of the general path used by the students of the Arlington High School.

#### ***Sidewalks***

The sidewalk along Grove Street is in poor condition. Not only is the section at the south point of the site extremely deteriorated but also it is obstructed by a street post and a few cracks on the surface.

This issue negatively affect the pedestrian approach to this facility from the nearby public transit stop at Massachusetts Avenue @ Summer Street.

#### ***Points of Entry***

There are two gated entry points to each tennis courts. All gates are missing smooth surface or kickplate hardware. The surface of the two gates adjacent to the gravel walkway on the north edge of the courts is not firm, level and smooth. (Photo 4)



Photo 4

## Access to Facility Areas

### *Interior Walkways*

A gravel walkway is provided between the point of entry at the northeast point of the site and the north edge of the tennis courts. Walking surface is not consistently firm, stable or slip-resistant near the tennis courts. (Photo 5)

Along the south edge of the tennis courts, an asphalt walkway provides an accessible route between the street and the tennis courts. However, the walkway does not extend beyond the tennis courts and an accessible route is not provided to climbing wall on the west side of the site. (Photo 6)



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

## Access to Elements

### ***Benches***

Two benches are provided along the gravel walkway on the north side of the tennis courts. One bench located along the north edge of the site is not inaccessible because it does not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 7)

Neither bench has armrest nor do they offer integrated shoulder-to-shoulder clear ground space that is firm, level and slip-free for wheelchair seating.



Photo 8

### ***Portable Toilet***

One portable toilet room is designated as accessible and is located along the north edge of the three tennis courts. However, this amenity is not accessible because it does not adjoin an accessible route. (Photo 8)

### ***Signage***

Informational signage is provided at the entrance gate areas. (Photo 9)

Informational signage is not accessible because it is not mounted between 40 and 60 inches from the ground; and, there is not level, firm and clear ground space to approach and read signs. Where signs prohibiting dogs are placed, policy needs to be modified to allow the use of a service dog. Information regarding this exception to the policy should be included where the policy is posted.



Photo 9

## Recommendations

### Recommendations, Capital Projects

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Crosswalks and Curb Ramps**

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing a new crosswalk across Grove Street at the intersection of the general path used by the students of the Arlington High School.

##### **Sidewalks**

Repair sidewalk along Grove Street (about 250 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

#### Recommendations, Without Much Difficulty or Expense

#### Approach & Entrance

##### **Points of Entry**

Install compliant hardware and kickplates on each gate to the tennis courts (total of 4 gates).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes for Doors, Doorways, and Gates.*

### Access to Facility Areas

##### **Interior Walkways**

Repair/compact gravel walkway or replace it with asphalt walkway near the tennis courts (about 50 feet) and extend asphalt walkway from the tennis courts to climbing wall (about 150 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

### Access to Elements

##### **Benches**

Relocate bench to edge of gravel walkway or extend gravel pathway to bench (about 25 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider providing at least 50% with armrests, as benches are replaced (total of 2 benches).

##### **Portable Toilet**

Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkways or extend the gravel walkway to it (about 30 feet).

*For additional information, please refer to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design: Accessible Routes.*

##### **Signage**

Although not a requirement under the ADA, consider creating an ADA-compliant graphic standard and implementing a comprehensive signage plan that is clear and not redundant.



### Wellington Park ADA Recommendations

- 1 Crosswalks and Curb Ramps:** Consider providing a new crosswalk across Grove Street at the intersection of the general path used by the students of the Arlington High School.
- 2 Sidewalks:** Repair sidewalk along Grove Street.
- 3 Points of Entry:** Install compliant hardware and kickplates on each gate to the tennis courts.
- 4 Interior Walkways:** Repair/compact gravel walkway or replace it with asphalt walkway near the tennis courts and extend asphalt walkway from the tennis courts to climbing wall.
- 5 Benches:** Relocate bench to edge of gravel walkway or extend gravel pathway to bench.
- 6 Portable Toilet:** Relocate the portable toilet along the existing walkways or extend the gravel walkway to it.
- 7 Signage:** Consider creating an ADA-compliant graphic standard and implementing a comprehensive signage plan that is clear and not redundant.